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Future Farmer
October-November, 1977
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October-November, 1977

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A Word With The Editor

This issue is a part of FFA's 50th Anniversary celebration. It has a special cover described in more detail below and a special section beginning on page 41 titled "The FFA Today." The special section gives an overview of the FFA as a national organization in its 50th year.

We hope you enjoy this special issue of the magazine as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. It has required a lot of work and long hours, sometimes leading into the night to get the job done. But it has been fun and a learning experience for us all.

FFA at 50. You will hear and see that a lot this year. Fifty years can seem like a long time—or only yesterday. It seems like a short time when you learn that two founders of the Future Farmers of Virginia who later helped organize the Future Farmers of America in 1928 are alive today. They are Walter S. Newman and H. W. Sanders both mentioned in the article on the history of FFA beginning on page 18. It also seems like a short time when you learn that Carl Humphrey, now state FFA advisor in Missouri, was a student of vocational agriculture in 1928 and attended the organizational meeting of the FFA in Kansas City. He recalls riding to Kansas City "in an old stock truck with a tarp over the top and bales of hay for seats" and says, "we nearly froze to death." He also remembers thinking it was such a big room for so few people.

But 50 years is a long time in terms of the events that fill the past 50 years of FFA. The more you read about the history of FFA, the more respect you have for the organization and the people who have made it what it is today.

Some of you who are FFA members today will be around to help celebrate *FFA at 100.* Will the next 50 years equal those of the past? Only history will tell and you can be a part of it.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover

After much discussion, we finally hit upon it. What could make a better cover for our commemorative 50th Anniversary issue than a combination of our time-honored emblem, traditional blue corduroy and golden thread for a Golden Year? It's a sight that conveys leadership, high ideals and respect to millions of Americans.

Much thanks to Ethel Cave (at left), a veteran of ten years at the FFA Supply Service, for her patience and artful sewing ability.

Photography by K. Elliott Nowels

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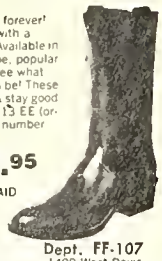

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News in Brief

The FFA

ACTION WAS taken on a number of business items at the regular summer meeting of the FFA Board of Directors in Alexandria, Virginia. One quite notable decision was the approval of a National Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest to become available when it is funded through the National FFA Foundation. Another was the approval of a comprehensively-designed National FFA Archives to be constructed at the National FFA Center. At right, Lennie Gamage, FFA Program Specialist, explains the Archives design proposal.

TONY HOYT of Arkansas has been named to the position of FFA Program Specialist, Leadership, on the National FFA Staff. Hoyt was formerly affiliated with the Arkansas Department of Commerce as coordinator of their central office in Little Rock. He has five years of experience teaching agriculture in Arkansas and also served that state as FFA executive secretary from 1969 to 1976. In his new position, Hoyt will be responsible for developing leadership programs, as well as directing the activities of the National FFA Officers.

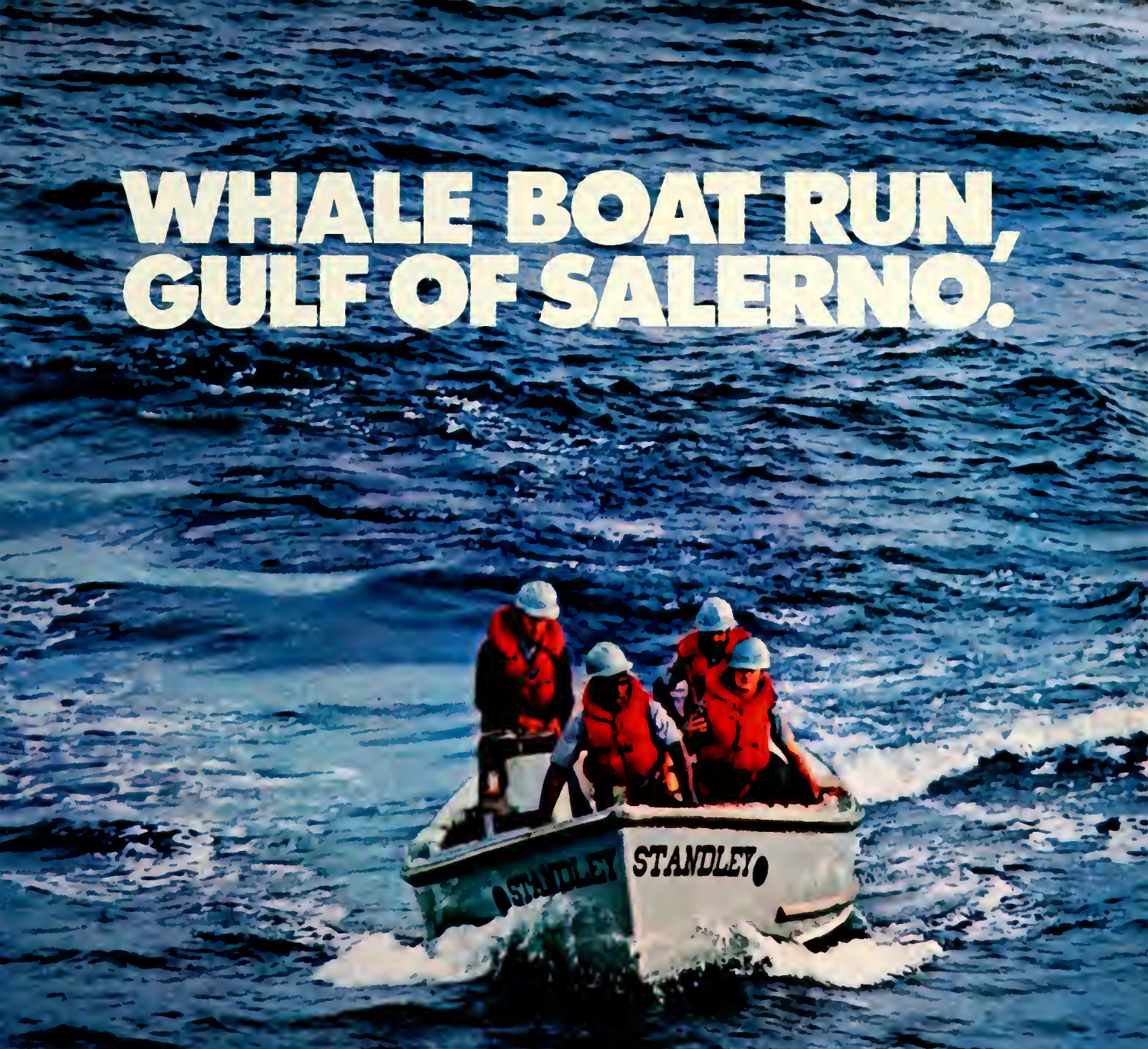
LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP SPONSORED by FFA Alumni will be a new feature of the National FFA Convention this year. Four workshops are being planned for 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day, Wednesday and Thursday. Attendance will be limited to 1,000 at each session. Outstanding Alumni members who have distinguished themselves in leadership roles will direct the activities.

RECENT FFA MEMBERSHIP statistics show that 91 chapters have memberships of 200 or more students. The Battle Ground FFA of Battle Ground, Washington, has the biggest chapter with 715 members and W. B. Saul in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is next with 479. Rounding out the top five are Essex FFA of Hawthorne, Massachusetts, with 381 members, Klein FFA in Spring, Texas, with 352 members and the Stuttgart chapter of Stuttgart, Arkansas, with 343 members.

BERNIE STALLER, a former Janesville, Wisconsin, ag teacher and FFA advisor has been named to the assistant executive director position for the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee at Madison, Wisconsin. Staller was president of the Wisconsin Association of Vocational Agricultural Instructors during 1976-77 and he has received the U.S. Steel award for Outstanding Young Agriculture Instructor of Wisconsin.

KANSAS CITY'S ARROWHEAD STADIUM will be the scene of a pre-Convention salute to the FFA's 50th Anniversary when the Kansas City Chiefs meet the Green Bay Packers in an NFL football game on Sunday, November 6. (The FFA Convention begins November 8). Recognition will be flashed on the huge computerized scoreboard (shown at right) honoring national officers and individual chapters during the ceremonies before an expected crowd of 70,000. FFA members, families and friends can attend the game at a special rate of $6 per ticket. If you are interested, contact your chapter advisor. He should have more information. If not, he can get the details by phoning Dianne Brady at 816/924-9300.

WHALE BOAT RUN, GULF OF SALERNO.



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American Farmer Percy Hornsby with his father, right, and Advisor B. B. Baker.

A Full Crop Of American Farmers

IN THE 25 years between 1948 and 1972, 36 members of the Seminole County, Georgia, FFA Chapter received the American Farmer degree. Eleven of those years this Georgia chapter had two or more honored at the same convention—one time as many as four. Only five of those years were they shut out.

That's a fine record for the chapter and its advisor for 33 years, B. B. Baker, who is now retired. Interest is added when you realize that the great majority of those degree holders are still in the area.

"I guess 23 out of those 36 are still farming in this area," said Baker, who still runs two miles per day to stay active. "Of course some more are in agribusiness."

Percy Hornsby is a good example of this group of farming American Farmers. He received his American Farmer degree in 1957 and now owns 1,100 acres outside Iron City in Seminole County. Raising about 600 acres of corn for his main crop, he also puts out 200 acres of peanuts and some small grain. A brood cow herd of 150 rounds out his busy operation. He says he got a good start early on and just kept at it.

"Dad helped me get started and I worked right up through. I bought 125 acres when I was 19 or so," he remembered as he pointed to the location of that first acreage. "FFA helped me make a decision of what to do after I graduated from high school. It was a little rough for awhile but now everything's been pretty good."

Hornsby is neither the exception, nor the rule for these former degree recipients and present American Farmers. In the spring of 1972, 18 of the farming American Farmers came together for a Young Farmer meeting. A survey of the group revealed that their total investment in farming at that time exceeded $1.5 million, with the scope of major enterprises as follows: hogs, 3,573 head; beef cattle, 1,236 head; corn, 2,188 acres; peanuts, 1,272 acres; and small grain, 670 acres. Only two of the group producing cotton at that time, with a total of 279 acres.

In the five years since that meeting, prices have gone up, as has the production of the farms represented by these men.

"That list would total a lot more now," says Baker, who is known in the area as 'Fessor. "I know the hog numbers would be much higher. I think all of them would be a lot higher. Of course the farms have gotten bigger now, too."

Why so many that received the golden key, then stuck to the life of the land? Baker offers several reasons.

"Well, for one thing it's a good farming section. Seemed as if most of the boys liked farming and, of course, most of them grew up on the farm. They likely got a good project started in high school, then by graduation they had a good thing going," 'Fessor said. He also indicated that he stressed the management aspect of farming during their high school days, including things like expenses, receipts and inventories of their private ownership.

"That's what these boys (American Farmers) learned when they were coming up through . . . that management . . . it stuck with them," he said.

Conversation with other people in the locality indicates that he was more than just a little modest in his evaluation of 'why so many'.

"When I was in FFA, Mr. Baker would see my calves might near once a week," said Wilford Tyler, who received his degree in '55. "I know he visited all the boys fairly often. One time he took me over to Thomasville and helped me buy a registered Duroc gilt. That's when I really got started in the hog business. She had 12 and we raised 11 of them." Tyler still raises hogs and crops. He marketed about 800 market hogs last year.

"By golly, I think the reason we had so many American Farmers is probably because we had just about one of the best ag teachers in all of southwest Georgia," Alfred Hornsby, Percy's father, said definitely.

'Fessor Baker just tilts his head slightly forward—scarcely acknowledging that kind of praise. He's proud of the work he did, but in a quiet sort of way.

"I think if you put yourself into it, it's just wonderful," he said of his former position. "It's knowin' that you're really helpin' somebody . . . that's what it's all about anyway . . . you know?"

On April 25, 1972, half of the crop of American Farmers held a Young Farmer meeting and posed for a photo.

Mailbag

Readers Report

Epworth, Iowa

Thought the issue which appeared today was super. Don't often sit down and read it all so suddenly, but thought it was a real "bell ringer." Best wishes on your second 25 years. Having been at this profession for almost 30 years, I almost feel like a "founder," but realize that the first 20 years of the FFA were probably the toughest. The public took a long time to recognize vo-ag and the FFA for what they are—sound, practical, and good.

William W. Stewart

Nolgaroen PL 3242
S-53300 Gotene
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The Work Experience Abroad program is helping to spread the word of the Future Farmers of America around the world.

Many of the hosting countries of WEA'ers are perhaps somewhat unfamiliar with the FFA organization. "FFA" is not a household word abroad like it is in the states.

To help the understanding of what a great agricultural youth organization FFA is, I think it would be a fine gesture on the part of the National Organization to send the hosting families a subscription.

Seeing this magazine would increase the creditability and seriousness of the Future Farmers of America in the hosting countries.

Ed Lee

The International Department is planning to do this and is in the process of submitting to us the list of host families' names.—Ed.

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

In one of your issues toward the end of 1976 you ran an article on a rodeo school. I was wondering if you could give me the name and address.

Randy Button

The best sources of addresses for current and upcoming rodeo schools is probably contained in Rodeo Sports News, **published by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Inc., which is printed twice each month. A year's subscription can be purchased for $8.00 from** Rodeo Sports News, **2929 West 19th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80204.—Ed.**

Gerber, California

I would like to tell a little about the FFA chapter of Red Bluff, California.

On March 11, 1976, my 16-year-old son Jack was killed in a train-pickup collision.

Jack had purchased a registered Charolais steer which was at the school farm. The other FFA'ers trained and took care of it. Jack's brother Ken showed and sold it at the county fair in July of 1976.

But that's not all. The faculty played the kids in a basketball game with all the proceeds going toward the funeral expenses.

(Continued on Page 16)

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[1]Dr. J. H. Drudge and Dr. E. T. Lyons: *Proceedings* from 11th Annual Convention, American Association of Equine Practitioners, 1965.

[2]Brig. Gen. Wayne O. Kester, USAF (VC) Ret.: Modern Veterinary Practice, August, 1975.

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Looking Ahead

Agriculture

THE WIND TURBINE may be a common sight on the dairy farm of the future according to designers from Kaman Sciences Corporation. The possibility is currently being investigated on the 120-head Colorado State University dairy farm in Ft. Collins, The 30-foot high wind-driven system will provide about six kilowatts of electricity to an existing heat pump which makes ice for cooling milk. Water, heated in the process, will be recycled for sanitation uses including washing udders and cleaning the parlor. The turbine is expected to meet 100 percent of the milk cooling needs and most of the water heating requirements on the farm.

VALUE OF FARM REAL ESTATE is now estimated at $495.5 billion, *up* $67.9 billion (16 percent) from a year earlier and more than double that of five years ago, a recent USDA report states. Value per acre ranged from $94 in Nevada to $2,051 in New Jersey and averaged $456 nationally. That's up from $390 per acre a year ago, up from $218 per acre in 1972.

CATTLE PRODUCERS HAVE turned down a national beef research and information program (see "The Beef Referendum," April-May issue, *The National FUTURE FARMER*). Tally of the vote shows that 130,386 (56.4 percent) voted for the amendment, and 100,641 against it. Though the Beef Research and Information Act was signed into law in May of 1976, its provisions could not be put into effect unless two-thirds of voting eligible beef producers okayed the measure.

FEEDING OATS TO PIGS at weaning time has been found to improve survival rate according to a report from the University of Illinois-Champaign. In tests run there and in Nebraska, there was no difference in daily gain or feed efficiency from weaning to five weeks after weaning when pigs received rations containing 20 percent oats compared to those receiving no oats. However, 97 percent of the pigs on the ration with oats survived, while 91 percent of the oatless-ration group lived for five weeks after weaning. It was found that even as much as 40 percent oats fed for a short time after weaning did not depress performance.

WORLD WOOL OUTPUT, after dropping slightly last year to an estimated 2.5 million metric tons, is expected to decline again this year, says USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. The decline in production follows a sharp upturn in wool use during 1975 attributed to general economic recovery and a swing back to natural fibers. While use of virgin wool tapered off in 1976 and may decline again this year, fashion trends indicate that wool should hold its own against other fibers on the world market.

A SERIES OF BACTERIAL SPRAYS during the growing season may protect corn from frosts in the fall according to research at the University of Wisconsin. Earlier research found that certain bacteria on corn leaves increased the amount of frost damage because they somehow stimulate ice crystals to form (ice-nucleation). New research has located an isolate of the ice-nucleating organism which did *not* nucleate ice. This strain could be used to keep the ice-nucleating strains from multiplying when properly sprayed on plants. In one test, sprayed plants had around 10,000 ice-nucleating bacteria cells per gram, while unsprayed plants had about 500,000 per gram.

FARMERS WHO BOUGHT CARS and trucks last May paid roughly 5 percent more than they would have spent for the same vehicles the previous November, according to the Statistical Reporting Service. The mid-May price survey showed that both new and used cars and trucks bore bigger price tags, although increases were heftier for used vehicles. Previously owned cars averaged $2,090, up $200 from six months earlier, while used three-quarter ton pickup trucks were up $300.

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Mailbag

(Continued from Page 13)

Also the teacher Mr. Thomas and the FFA group attended the funeral.

Again I would like to say thank you to a really swell bunch of kids in the local area.

Mrs. Charlotte Clayton

Fort Yates, North Dakota

Hello! Please send a catalogue to our new vo-ag program at the Standing Rock Community High School. I realize that some of the items needed for new programs come from the state office, however, I wasn't sure about the catalogue and we will need it almost imediately anyway. Thank you!

Ms. Littlebrave Beaston
Vo-Ag Instructor

Tyndall, South Dakota

Our chapter will use the extra income netted from our participation in the Official FFA Calendar program for lodging at the state convention. The calendars are a worthwhile addition to our chapter promotion.

We are proud to display our name on the streets and in businesses in the city.

The whole chapter took the effort to supply the calendars around town. Robert Brattmiller and Dennis Varilek distributed the calendars to the various businesses.

Bobby L. Muller
Advisor

Rosemont, Illinois

To develop our 1978 Calendar of Special Events we need your help. The calendar will include dates and themes for special recognition during the year.

This calendar will be provided to 125 Dairy Council offices throughout the United States. It will be used as a planning tool to encourage local cooperative efforts between Dairy Councils and your local chapters.

We would very much appreciate having the dates and theme for your 1978 FFA WEEK. Also, when you have developed promotion material for this celebration, I would like to be included on your mailing list.

Mary M. Garrett
National Dairy Council

National FFA WEEK will be February 18-25 in 1978. This is also the 50th Anniversary year for FFA and so the celebration will have as its special theme FFA at 50 "A GOLDEN PAST • a brighter future."—Ed.

Apple Valley, California

As newly elected reporter of the Apple Valley FFA Chapter, I would greatly appreciate any information you could give me on submitting articles to the magazine.

Mike Joy
Chapter Reporter

The best advice for a budding writer is to write—letters, articles, reports. Try to be thorough but not wordy. Answer the questions you'd want to know about a subject. The current FFA Manual tells how to write an article on Page 98 and how to submit an article on Page 18.—Ed.

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The FFA Is Organized

By Wilson Carnes, Editor

THE influence the Virginia organization had on later development of FFA was so great that the state frequently is given credit for originating the movement. Actually, the movement for organizing vocational agricultural students was rather widespread and Virginia was not the first to have a state organization.

Virginia's success and leadership in the development of FFA may be attributed to three things: First, the time was ripe for development of state organizations of vocational agriculture students. Second, the constitution and ritual developed there was so outstanding that it was used for a pattern in other states. Finally, the happy choice of the name Future Farmers was immediately acceptable over much of the nation.

The term Future Farmers had been used in New Jersey, Wyoming and perhaps in other states, but Virginia was the first to use it in the name of their state organization. Henry C. Groseclose generally is credited with suggesting its use. A history of the FFA in Virginia, published in 1943, states:

"One hot day in September, 1925, Walter S. Newman, state supervisor of agricultural education, sat at a table in the teacher training department at Blacksburg talking to three members of the latter staff. What he was saying was very much like this: 'In my opinion the farm boys of Virginia who are enrolled in vocational agriculture are equal to any other group of boys in the state. But somehow the boys themselves seem to have a feeling of inferiority . . .

" 'This condition should not exist. I believe that a strong organization of our boys in agriculture would help them to overcome this handicap. Let's form an organization that will give them a greater opportunity for self-expression and for the development of leadership . . .'

"The table at which this discussion took place is now located in the department of agricultural education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. It bears a brass plate carrying the following inscription:

" 'At this table in September, 1925, it was determined that boys studying agriculture should have their own organization—now the FFA. Present: Walter S. Newman, Edmund C. Magill, H. W. Sanders and Henry C. Groseclose.' "

"But what should we call the new organization? No one seemed to have the answer until Henry C. Groseclose came forward with this happy solution: 'It will be the FFV—Future Farmers of Virginia.' For generations the letters FFV represented 'First Families of Virginia.' But Washington was first, last and all the time a farmer. The same was true of Jefferson and other members of Virginia's 'first families.' Now the letters took on a new significance and farm boys as well as their parents and friends were prompt and enthusiastic in their acceptance."

Agents for the Agricultural Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, under the leadership of their chief, Dr. C. H. Lane, helped to promote the idea of vocational agriculture student organizations through their individual visits to the states and through annual regional conferences of supervisors and teacher trainers. By 1927 there was much talk of a national organization.

The North Atlantic Region moved first, but only because its conference preceded those of the other regions. At the annual conference of supervisors and teacher trainers held in Bronxville, New York, February 14-17, 1927, reference was made to vocational agriculture student organization progress in the states of Virginia, Ohio and New Jersey.

An extensive report was made by W. J. Weaver of New York on "Young Farmer Clubs," which he referred to as: "one of the newest forms of activity that New York is sponsoring . . ."

At the 1927 conference of vocational agriculture supervisors and teacher trainers of the southern states, held in San Antonio, Texas, March 28 to April 2, a committee that included T. E. Browne of North Carolina as chairman, W. S. Newman of Virginia and J. T. Wheeler of Georgia, submitted a resolution which was passed recommending "That each of the states develop a state organization of Future Farmers, looking forward to regional or national federation."

Another year passed and in that year many states, following the lead of the regional conferences, consolidated their local organizations into state associations and a great number of them assumed the Future Farmers name.

In 1928 the Future Farmers of Tennessee, under the leadership of their State Supervisor, D. M. Clements, began work on what probably was the first state FFA camp.

A follow-up report in 1928 on the New York organization indicated,

(Continued on Page 20)

The first person to receive the American Farmer degree in FFA and to serve as vice president of the North Atlantic Region was Mr. Lawrence Augenstine, left, then from Ohio. He is pictured with Rick McDaniel, above, who is also from Ohio and currently serving as vice president of the North Atlantic Region. According to Augenstine, the only other living member of the first National Officer team is Alvin Reimer, Nebraska. He is unable to locate any of the other American Farmers from the original ten. Mr. Augenstine now lives in Poway, California.

This article was condensed from "FFA at 25" by the late John Farrar, for years director of information for the FFA. The book is no longer in print.

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Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
Michigan State University, East Lansing
University of Minnesota, St. Paul
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University of Missouri, Columbia
Montana State University, Bozeman
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
North Carolina State University, Raleigh
Ohio State University, Columbus
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.
South Dakota State University, Brookings
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Texas A&M University, College Station
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wyoming, Laramie

FFA History

(Continued from Page 18)

among other things, that 40 schools had Young Farmer Clubs in operation with a membership of 1,250 boys; that two general meetings had been held during the year; that a publication entitled the *New York Timer* had been started; and that a public speaking contest was in operation.

The 1928 Southern Regional Conference was an historic one. Meeting at Memphis, Tennessee, in March, the Southerners heard an exhaustive report presented by a committee including Groseclose as chairman; R. B. Smith of Arkansas and G. E. Freeman of Tennessee.

The report recommended uniform action among the states of the Southern Region in establishing Future Farmer organizations. It asked for a federation of Future Farmers' organization for the region, to be called "Future Farmers of Dixie" and made the further recommendation that if a national organization was established the regional name should be dropped in preference for the national name.

But the Future Farmers of Dixie never reached the state of actual organization, for shortly after the Groseclose report at Memphis a Central Region conference group followed reports of V. E. Kivlin of Wisconsin, J. B. McClelland of Ohio and P. W. Danielson of South Dakota and adopted recommendations that the Federal Board for Vocational Education copyright the name Future Farmers, that a national insignia be adopted and that other action be taken that would bring about speedy adoption of a national organization of Future Farmers.

A few weeks later, during the Pacific Region conference at Denver, Colorado, April 30 to May 5, Dr. C. H. Lane, Chief of the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education and Dr. W. T. Spanton, regional agent, encouraged the development of the FFA.

Addressing the conference group, Spanton, who was later to serve as National Advisor, said: "I cannot too heartily endorse the student organization idea...Personally, I have been most impressed with the constitution, by-laws, admission requirements and so forth, of the association in the state of Virginia, known as the FFV's, or Future Farmers of Virginia. The name 'Future Farmer' is catchy and appropriate and if a strong national organization could be established, what would be a more appropriate name than 'FFA,' or 'Future Farmers of America'?"

In Dr. Lane's address to the conference he listed 11 purposes that student organizations should achieve, a list very close to the Aim and Purposes that later were adopted by the FFA.

The committee named to study the student organization question included W. A. Ross of Wyoming, chairman, J. A. McPhee of California, L. D. Klemmedson of Arizona and Dr. Lane.

By the summer of 1928 the goal of a great national organization of students of vocational agriculture was clearly in sight. Teachers, teacher trainers and supervisors of vocational agriculture were awake to the value of such an organization.

From all four of the administrative regions had come definite proposals concerning the type and kind of student organization that should be developed.

In line with suggestions from the states, a temporary constitution for the Future Farmers of America organization, patterned closely after that of the Future Farmers of Virginia, was drafted by members of the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 1928. Those who had a part in this undertaking were Dr. Lane and the following agents for agricultural education: R. D. Maltby, A. P. Williams, W. T. Spanton, and H. O. Sargent. Newman and Groseclose of Virginia were called in from time to time to assist in the work. Letters of incorporation were drawn up and the Future Farmers of America received a charter under the corporate laws of Virginia, dated September 5, 1928. The Board of Incorporators were listed as C. H. Lane, J. A. Linke, H. O. Sargent, A. P. Williams, W. T. Spanton and R. D. Maltby, all of Washington, W. S. Newman and H. C. Groseclose of Virginia, and H. O. Sampson of New Jersey.

In the fall of 1928, the tentative constitution was sent to the states, together with an explanation of the procedure to be followed by a state in becoming affiliated with the FFA, and a call was issued for the first national convention of the Future Farmers of America.

The first national convention of FFA was held at the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 20, 1928 in conjunction with the American Royal Live Stock Show and the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students. Eighteen states were represented by 33 official delegates. Reports from the boys showed state organizations functioning in South Carolina, Utah, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Arizona, and Virginia. Other states represented in the meeting were California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

The constitution was adopted and Leslie Applegate of New Jersey was named the first national FFA president, Dr. Lane was elected the first national advisor, and Groseclose the executive secretary-treasurer.

Other national officers elected from the FFA membership were Don Godsey, Colorado; Alvin Reimer, Nebraska; Lawrence Augenstine, Ohio; Sam Pickering, Arkansas; and Arthur Ketterlin, California. Suggested programs of work for local chapters, state associations and the national organization were formulated. National dues were set at 10 cents per member per year. Ten members were elected to the American Farmer degree. Plans were made for the preparation of an FFA handbook. At that time the organization was $191 in debt, the only time its receipts have been less than expenses incurred.

From this small beginning came the FFA today, an organization that has influenced millions of lives and is one of the nation's great forces toward the development of leadership, citizenship and a better agriculture.

Next Issue: FFA Milestones

Early Leaders of FFA

Leslie Applegate
First FFA President

H. C. Groseclose,
First Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

C. H. Lane, First
National FFA Advisor

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More Than A Place To Live

MAKING the farm an attractive and comfortable place to live is a continuing process.

Because of the continuing nature of this improvement, the FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement program becomes a logical project choice for many FFA members.

Last year's national award winner from Highland, Wisconsin, Pat Shemak, thought of a number of things he could do on his own family's farm while helping his uncle build a garage.

Among the things Pat tackled were: building and hanging gates, fixing doors, building a pole shed, a feed bunk and installing horse stalls in the horse barn, cementing the feed lot, building a free-stall for 26 cows and a 50-foot addition to the barn and blacktopping the driveway.

But, Pat says, "It didn't start out as a project. It wasn't until I was elected a state officer that I decided to put it all together and apply for an award. Until then, I just enjoyed carpentry and electrical work.

Over 20,000 young people are involved in the Home and Farmstead Improvement program annually. The recognition they receive from competition is made available by Upjohn, TUCO, Asgrow and Cobb organizations, Agricultural Division of The Upjohn Company, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Home and Farmstead Improvement was a natural for Dale Tolbert, southern region winner last year from Kilbourne, Louisiana. When his family bought an 80-acre farm in 1974, they acquired a neglected house with the land.

Developing this house was the basis for Dale's project. "The house was sound and had running water, but there was no bathroom, pump or septic tank. We also had to rebuild some of the walls and ceilings," he says.

After the house was completed, Dale worked at landscaping and did preliminary work on a barn and horse shelter.

Work taken on by Ronnie Thomas, eastern region winner from Moneta, Virginia, was wide ranging and was not complete construction but rather improvements to existing facilities.

Among these improvements were an addition to the family house, construction of a concrete patio and sidewalk, re-seeding the lawn, building and caring for fences, clearing pastureland, constructing a barn and garage combination that included underground horse stalls and planting and caring for flower beds.

FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement proficiency requires a variety of skills from its participants—from carpentry, plumbing and upholstery techniques to horticulture, ag mechanics and electrical work. Because of the diversity involved, it gives participants a wide range of career-oriented experiences.

Tim Hutchings, the western region winner of the FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement proficiency award, has been involved in an extensive home construction and improvement project which began in 1972 when Tim's family purchased 1½ acres and began building a ranch style home.

"It was a lot of work," says Tim, "but I learned a great deal and enjoyed the feeling of accomplishment." During the past three years in vocational agriculture some of Tim's projects included construction of a barn and well shed, wiring of the home and other facilities, construction of corrals and installation of pasture fences.

Pat Shemak did some upholstering and refinishing of furniture for his own home as part of the project but enjoyed it to the extent that he now does upholstering for members of the community in spare time.

Prior to enrolling in vocational agriculture in school, Ronnie Thomas says they had no livestock on their acreage. But they have since acquired some cattle and several horses.

This activity sparked his interest in a college career in animal science and his plans to take a course to become a farrier.

Dale credits FFA projects with providing a foundation for his success. "I wasn't interested in school at all until I got involved in FFA. Now my college goal is to work in some field of agriculture—either at an experiment station or in ag public relations."

The Home and Farmstead Improvement proficiency program requires leadership involvement.

In addition to holding chapter offices, Dale and Ronnie were members of state parliamentary procedure teams. Ronnie's team placed fourth in Virginia and Dale's team was first in Louisiana competition.

Ronnie sums up the experience. "I was gaining knowledge and experience in subjects that I didn't even realize existed until I entered the Home and Farmstead Improvement program."

In acquiring the knowledge Ronnie speaks of, participants in Home and Farmstead Proficiency not only make their farms a better place to live, but they benefit their own and their country's future.

Ronnie Thomas, above, from Virginia, carried out an extensive improvement effort on the home farm. Dale Tolbert from Louisiana, below, worked to fix up a newly acquired neglected farm home.

Animal Health and the Law

The central question is safety—the safety of the food supply and the technology used to produce it.

By K. Elliott Nowels

THE central question is safety, but in the issue concerning animal health, feed additives and drug residues, other questions conflict. Will Americans have a large supply of relatively inexpensive animal products? Will those products be wholesome and healthful? How safe is safe enough? As a consumer or producer, or both, the outcome of the current debate will affect you.

Farmers for many years have seen the tools that aid them in production come under attack by environmentalists and concerned consumers. Pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides and animal health products all pass under watchful eyes. With the recent explosion of the saccharin issue on the scene, the court of public opinion has turned its attention once again to food additives in general as well as the specifics of antibiotics and feed additives used in the production of food animals.

"It all starts with proper use. That's the point that should go on to your readership," said Fred Holt, executive vice president of the Animal Health Institute (AHI), in an interview with *The National FUTURE FARMER*. "That's what the government is interested in, safety. And carrying it one step further, proper use."

AHI is the national trade association representing 55 manufacturers of animal health and nutrition products. The AHI companies research, develop and market the majority of all animal health products sold in the United States. Naturally they are interested in keeping those products safe and therefore legal.

"The major problem gotten into with this improper drug use out there is that Charley down the road says 'this stuff will really work for your animals—so try a little of it,' regardless of what the labeling says, and the guy tries—we hear this time and time again—and it gets him into trouble—and ultimately it gets the product into trouble," said Jerry Brunton, AHI's director of scientific activities. Brunton, who is both a D.V.M. and Ph.D., went on to add that the label often is the result of five to ten years and $5 to $10 million spent in researching to find proper dosage for best results.

In the past several years it has become easier for products to get into trouble with the law. The problem seems to lie with the law itself. The Delaney Clause is the name of what is commonly referred to as the "anti-cancer" provision of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1958. In 1962, an additional proviso regulating the use of drugs and feed additives in food-producing animals was passed. It says that you can market a product that is an alleged carcinogen (or cancer-inducing agent, by most definitions) provided you can reduce the residue level to zero in the animal product. At that time our technology was such that we spoke in terms of parts per million (ppm). Anything less than that was undetectable or in effect, zero. The 15 years since that enactment have been progression in detection through parts per billion (ppb) and on down to parts per trillion (ppt).

"As you start dealing with parts per billion or parts per trillion and beyond that, zero becomes a shrinking object," explained Holt. "You get down to that level and what does it really mean? You're talking about an infinitesimal amount of substance in an animal."

A regulation entitled the Sensitivity-of-Method document of SOM was published as an attempt to bring effective FDA statutes up to date with our current technology and define a level of acceptance. The AHI calls it a nice try, but unworkable in its present form.

"When it works it will be great," said Jerry Brunton. "In a sense it's almost . . . the answer to the question. Introducing scientific judgement into these decisions, rather than blanket prohibition."

AHI's beef is the "guilty until proven innocent" nature of the ruling. They say that they are not arguing over "the concept of the thing, but the details of it." The SOM document involves a rather complicated formula for defining what "zero residue" is.

In the words of Dr. David Phillipson, president of AHI, in his statement before the subcommittee on dairy and poultry in the U.S. House of Representatives, "Any animal drug, presently marketed or proposed for marketing, can be banned because the agency merely suspects it might cause cancer and the sponsor cannot prove that it doesn't."

The latest round in the running foray involving consumer and producer—and the government—perhaps somewhere in between—carries the safety issue one

(Continued on Page 74)

"The whole system of how we're going to test them (products) is currently being looked at." Here, Brunton (left) and Holt discuss legislative proposals.

Cows, Contests and Cooperation

. . . could make this three-way partnership a winner

MARY and Ralph eased their cattle around the ring, each keeping one eye on the judge and one eye on the cow. Soon the judge motioned for Mary to stand her cow apart from the group, then for Ralph to move his in directly beside. That's the way he'd leave them today, he said. The top cow just had a little better conformation and udder development than the second cow.

Mary Shank, last year's Maryland Star State Farmer and member of two top ten State FFA Dairy judging teams, could have told you that. So could her brother, Ralph, who is State Vice President this year and first place individual in the 1976 Dairy Judging Contest.

All of these awards, contests and shows are fine unto themselves, but their true value shows through when the knowledge gained by competing is put to even greater use further down life's road. Ralph and Mary Shank are going to do that. They will have an ample opportunity to use their judging and showing expertise during the years to come because they are combining talents with those of their parents to form a partnership in the family's 173-acre Palmyra Farm, where they milk 175 head of registered Ayrshires.

"I think showing is a way you can see how much progress you are making with your herd, how you compare with the national standards for your breed," Mary said after the show.

"Another thing about it is publicity," Ralph added. "Last year we had the most All Americans plus reserves in one herd of any in the country." They had two All American cows and three reserves honored by the judges at the National Ayrshire Show. And they know that exposure can mean much in dairymen's circles. "It used to be that people would say 'who're those people from Maryland?' but within the last several years, well, it just seems like we've made a name for ourselves," Ralph said.

They have three more major shows this year: the Maryland State Fair, the All-American in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and the Ayrshire National Show in Madison, Wisconsin, for which they will join forces with other Ayrshire breeders in Maryland and take a state herd up.

Sister and brother pose next to one of their prize-winning Ayrshires after competing in the Washington county fair held recently at Hagerstown, Maryland.

Meanwhile, back at the farm, plans for increased production begin to take shape. They have recently acquired 176 acres of an adjoining farm to supplement feed production. To assist with the payments on the new acreage they might decide to raise their milking number up to 200.

Ralph, Jr. and Ralph, Sr. are game, but Mary is "not too fond of the idea." That could be due to the fact that she's starting her junior year of college this autumn and might not be able to help with the cows as much as she'd like.

"I get upset now because being away at school, I can't keep up with them like I should. I used to know who they were bred to, when they were going to calf, and how much each one was producing. But so much happens while I'm away it's difficult," Mary said.

Mary has already had two years at the University of Maryland and plans to finish up her dairy science degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Ralph, who graduated from high school this past year, is going straight into farming.

"It didn't seem like a good idea for me to follow along behind Mary taking all the same courses and everything," he said. "The thing for me to do at this point it seems like is to stay on the farm and work. Then when Mary graduates she can come back and educate me," he smiled. Mary says that her education should help with the cows in terms of feeding, breeding and record-keeping.

"Generally, I should be able to bring back any new techniques that they might be coming on with," she explained. Currently the Shank herd is running an average of 11,436 pounds per cow with butterfat content at about 4.2 percent. "We've come a long way but there still can be improvement," Ralph said. Each member of the family will help out including their mother, Patricia, who takes care of about 25 calves at a time.

"They're a very community-minded family and also one that is very unselfish within itself," said Horace Fuller, advisor of the South Hagerstown FFA. As an example he cited the manner in which the partnership will be run. "It won't be like mom and dad runnin' the show with the kids playing a minor part," the veteran of 28 years teaching explained. "They'll be full partners in responsibility."

When talking with Ralph, Sr. who was also Maryland Star Farmer in 1948 and holds the American Farmer Degree, one finds out more about what Mr. Fuller related. Limited management responsibility? No way. "Not when they work as hard as those kids work," the elder Shank said, adding that it would be different if they hadn't been pulling their share. "But they were in here at the fairgrounds at 4:30 this morning to milk the show cows, then they came back out to the farm and helped milk the rest of the herd." There seemed to be a combination of pride and respect in his voice.

Ralph and Mary are actually part of a minority within a minority, that being the dwindling number of young dairy farmers within the dwindling number of dairy farms nationally. The number of dairy herds in the nation has been falling steadily for several years and currently stands at about 250,000—or approximately one dairy farm for every 900 people in the United States. Different reasons can be offered for the drop. Perhaps poor management resulting in foreclosure, or maybe its just the 'no-vacation' type operation. On the bright side, milk produced per cow has been steadily rising, though cow numbers have been reversely affected. Figures released by the Statistical Reporting Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicate that there are currently about 10.9 million milk cows in the nation, compared to 11 million a year earlier and 11.1 million in 1975. Meanwhile, total milk production this year has been running at about 3 percent over 1976, which, in turn, was over 4 percent higher than 1975.

Ralph, Jr. thinks that the increase in pounds per cow—which stood at a national average of 10,893 in 1976 and is due to rise another 3 percent for 1977 if it continues its current pace—is about over.

"I think the Holsteins are just about nearing their peak, of course the other breeds have a ways to go, but it won't rise like that forever," he said.

Of course if cow numbers continue to decline and production per cow does level off, it means a declining domestic supply in the United States. It's not likely to be because Palmyra Farm isn't trying, though.

Below, Ralph attempts to show his Ayrshire's best features under the watchful eye of the judge. Shows like this one aid them in evaluating the herd's progress.

Heavyweights from Ford. Four-wheel-drive tractors which weigh up to 17 tons and develop up to 335 engine horsepower are available from some Ford tractor dealers. The diesels have all the cab extras like air controls, adjustable swivel seats, convenient controls, an AM/FM system. Has tilt steering wheel and telescoping column for work comfort.

John Deere's new post driver makes fence building jobs easier. The driving head raises hydraulically but falls free. It will work on steel posts up to 11 feet long or wooden posts that length and 9 inches in diameter. The digger mounts on the three-point hitch. A 50-pound head is available for uses in unusually hard or stony ground.

Chevrolet is offering a diesel powered pickup. Has 350-cubic inch GM V8 in half-ton two-wheel drive. Offers fuel savings of up to 25 percent. Other engine features are a pre-combustion chamber cylinder head for quieter running engine and less exhaust smoke than open chamber designs.

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Convention Countdown

IT all began in Kansas City. The Future Farmers of America was organized at a convention in the old Baltimore Hotel in 1928.

After 50 Golden years, the members of FFA return to Kansas City to kick off their 50th Anniversary. Certainly this convention will be a memorable one and will have many special features.

But work for the Golden Anniversary and the National Convention has been going on for a long time. For the Star Farmers and Agribusinessmen, their roles started several years ago as Greenhands, just like all other FFA members. The FFA staff is busy planning next year's convention while this year's convention is going on and they spend some time throughout the year developing these ideas. The board of Directors and National FFA Officers spend much time at their July meeting on convention matters. And long before that, Foundation sponsors contributed their money either to the general fund or to a special project to provide for the awards that will be given to FFA members at the convention.

As the convention approaches, the pace quickens and citizens of Kansas prepare for the invasion of blue and gold jackets. The agribusiness leaders of Kansas City are hosting a "Salute to FFA at 50" luncheon for national officers and delegates early in the week.

Convention countdown is in progress. Finally the time arrives and the pieces of the puzzle begin to fit together in what has been described at various times as the "World Series of FFA" to the "largest ag meeting in the world."

The week before this year's convention starts, the national officers will arrive in town and work on last minute preparations. That weekend, members of the Board of Directors will arrive and go immediately into meetings. The Band and Chorus will get in town and start practicing.

Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium will be the scene of a pre-National FFA Convention salute to the 50th Anniversary of the FFA when the Kansas City Chiefs meet the Green Bay Packers in an NFL football game on Sunday, November 6.

Monday and Tuesday

Monday, registration opens for chapters. The official state delegates will arrive and register by 1:45 p.m., just prior to the officer-delegate meeting that afternoon when they will receive their briefing and orientation for the week ahead.

Tuesday morning the delegates will be in committee meetings and will participate in a pre-convention business meeting that afternoon. In this business session, as in others throughout the week, the delegates will be considering such items of business as constitutional amendments, committee reports and other items of business which may be properly presented.

Tuesday is also the day that most FFA members and their advisors arrive. Grand opening of the Career Show will be at 1 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. there is a vespers program in the auditorium. Free entertainment will be provided in the nearby H. Roe Bartle Hall for all members to enjoy. It is sponsored by the Ararrat Shrine Temple and Sears Roebuck.

Wednesday

The first general session officially gets the convention underway at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning. This will include the unveiling of the commemorative medallion designed by Washington member Patti Yanz. The medallion has been produced in a variety of metals for use as collector coins, key rings, paper weights and awards.

A premier showing of the 50th Anniversary film entitled "Learning and The Land" will be part of the Wednesday evening session along with a tribute to charter members of the FFA.

While most of the convention activities are conducted in the auditorium, there are many other events taking place at other locations. Judging contests, committee meetings, meal functions for special groups and other meetings such as the FFA Alumni and the Foundation sponsors. Details of time and place for many of these events will appear in the program given to everyone who registers.

For the first time this year, members will have Leadership Workshops they can attend. These workshops will be conducted and sponsored by the National FFA Alumni Association.

One-hour sessions will be conducted in the H. Roe Bartle Hall on both Wednesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Thursday

Highlights on the Thursday program will be the program recognizing Foundation sponsors and the "Stars Over America" pageant.

Another special attraction on Thursday will be the opportunity for members and advisors to meet artist Arthur Sarnoff who has created the oil paintings used on Official FFA Calendars. He will be available for autographs. All of the paintings will be on display throughout the week from the National Center.

Friday and Saturday

Friday, the convention ends with activities such as FFA Day at the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show, the election of national officers and the Firestone Show.

On Saturday, the National FFA Band will lead the American Royal Parade.

In his Call To The Convention, National President, James Bode suggests that "This year's convention promises to be the most successful yet. As the largest vocational student organization, we will be attracting national leaders to our stage, along with award winners, degree recipients, Foundation sponsors and other VIP's." James reminds his fellow members of the special opportunity that awaits all who travel to the 50th Convention. "In attendance will be people who have not been to the convention for several years, but they will return to celebrate this very special occasion. Many of these individuals played major roles in the formation of the FFA and they are the heritage of which we can be so proud. It is my hope that these individuals leave Kansas City as proud of the present and future of the FFA as we can be of the past. I have faith that if the rules of proper dress and Code of Ethics are observed by all members while in Kansas City, our image shall continue in its finest tradition.

"Help make the 50th National FFA Convention the most educational, inspirational and successful yet."

Every chapter was mailed the special poster about member participation in the convention and the brochure "You and Your National Convention." It makes many suggestions about appearance at and participation in the convention by all chapter delegates. It also includes a detailed program.

One change from previous years' conventions is the $5.00 registration fee for everyone. There will be no guests' (without charge) registration.

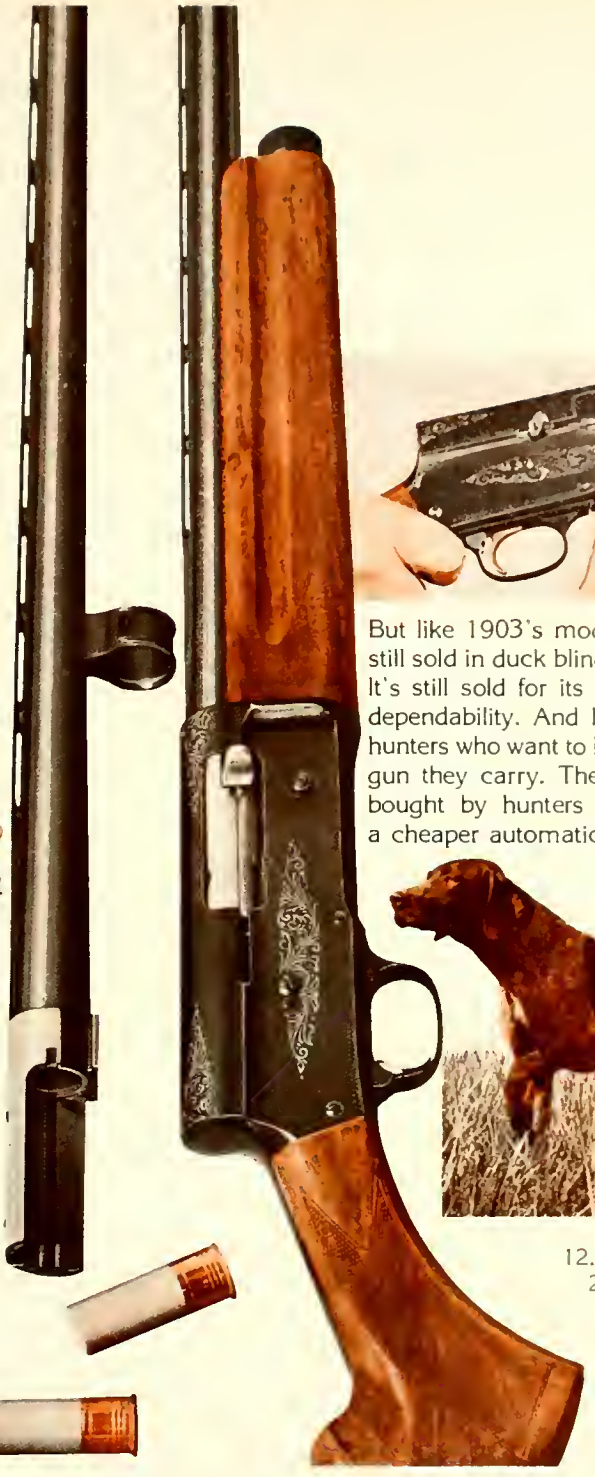
In his Call, James also reminded chapters of the rule: Six chapter representatives or ten percent of the chapter membership may attend.

As National Advisor H. N. Hunsicker sees it, "The FFA at 50 years has a proud past. And because of dedicated participation of the FFA members at this historic National Convention, I am more convinced than ever that FFA has a brighter future ahead."

Proof Tested

74 years over dogs and decoys.

1977 Browning Auto-5 reduced $25.00 at suggested retail.



No other automatic shotgun has stood the test of time like the Browning Auto-5. Introduced in 1903, the Auto-5 won instant acclaim for being the world's first successful auto-loading shotgun. But it was time — not innovation — that gave the Auto-5 its real reputation...a Browning A-5 never quits.

You can count on three or five certain shots from an A-5, when you need them. A hang-up or malfunction is almost unheard of with an A-5. That reputation was recorded by nearly three million hunters who have carried Browning A-5's through corn fields and duck marshes for 74 years. Hard use and hard abuse wrote the A-5 legend.

Today's Auto-5 benefits from advanced metallurgy and design improvements over 1903's model. It has a full pistol grip to aid gun mounting and control. It has a matted, ventilated rib to preserve the advantage of the famous squared receiver — the A-5 gives you a sharp, clean sight picture. Speed loading lets you load faster than any other auto shotgun. And a magazine cut-off lets you change the load in the chamber without disturbing shells in the magazine.

But like 1903's model, today's A-5 is still sold in duck blinds and corn fields. It's still sold for its workmanship and dependability. And bought by serious hunters who want to be sure of the shotgun they carry. The Browning A-5 is bought by hunters who can't afford a cheaper automatic.

12, 20 or 3 magnum 20 gauge, $374.95, suggested retail
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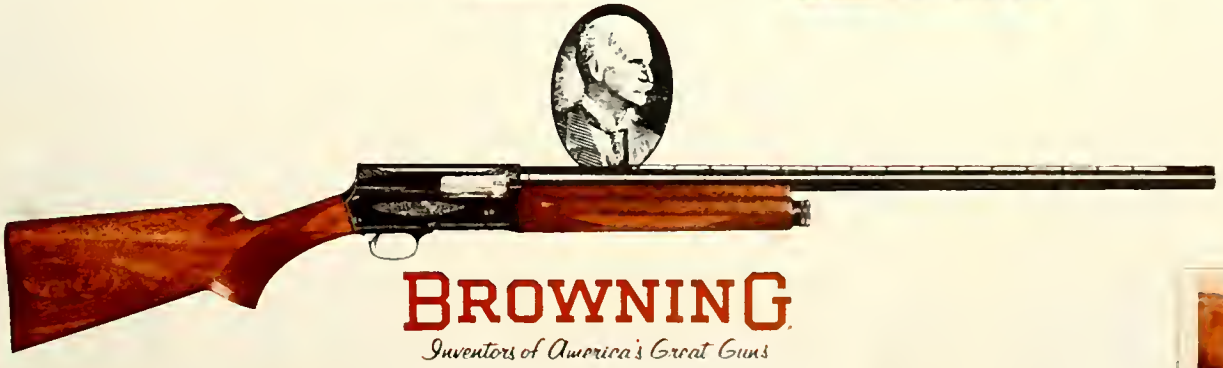

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STAR FARMERS of America

DIRK WEBB, Elk City, Oklahoma, FFA'er is the Western Region candidate for the FFA's Star Farmer of America award.

"I started my cattle enterprise when my father gave me the best heifer calf in the pasture in return for my labor during the summer chopping cotton." When the heifer raised a calf, Dirk sold the pair to buy a registered cow. Today he owns 60 head of beef cattle both registered and grade. His good management practices have resulted in a 93 percent calf crop.

In addition to cattle, Dirk has built a successful swine operation. "I started with a Duroc gilt and kept increasing my herd with gilts of all breeds." One of his barrows was Reserve Grand Champion barrow at the Oklahoma Spring Livestock Show in 1972.

Dirk Webb
Western Region

In 1975, Dirk's well managed and profitable 482-head swine enterprise earned him the National FFA Swine Production Proficiency award, sponsored by Pfizer Agricultural Division.

On 80 acres of purchased land and another 80 acres of rented land he raises milo, wheat and cotton.

Under chapter Advisor Larry Long, Dirk has been an outstanding leader as both chapter and state officer. After graduation he got involved in the local Alumni Affiliate and served as Oklahoma FFA Alumni vice chairman.

He's now a student in agricultural education at Oklahoma State University and is currently president of the Agriculture Student Body.

DWIGHT BULLER of Hendrick, Minnesota, recently was named the Central Region candidate for FFA's Star Farmer of America award.

Though he knew he wanted to farm at an early age, Dwight hardly imagined that he would be committed to a farming career when he was 12 years old. "We were farming 560 acres and 270 acres of pasture when we discovered that my father had leukemia," recalls the 21-year-old. "The doctor's picture of the future wasn't very bright so my Dad asked my two brothers and me if we wanted to farm."

"Because of our interest, Dad didn't cut back. In fact, we expanded some and thanks to modern medicine and answered prayers, my father now has a favorable prognosis, although he has practically retired from the farming operation."

Dwight Buller
Central Region

By the time he was a senior Buller was able to purchase the home farm on a contract and took over the cattle feeding operation.

Working with his father and brother, Dwight now operates a total of over 3,000 acres, raising corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, alfalfa and barley.

In spite of his heavy farm schedule, Dwight has found time for FFA leadership under Advisor Bruce Wosje.

Dwight is active in the community and serves on the Council on Quality Education Advisory Board and the Vocational Agriculture Advisory Committee.

RONALD JONES of the Covington FFA Chapter in Western Tennessee and 20-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Jones, was recently named the Southern Region nominee for Star Farmer.

The only son of four children, Ron was raised on his parent's 130-acre home farm. Today Ronald, his brother-in-law and his father operate an additional 1,600 acres of row crops in this diversified farming area.

After five years of FFA membership, Ron now crops 470 acres of land himself, including soybeans, wheat and cotton. His vo-ag instructors are Elton Bryant and Ted Turner.

Ronald Jones
Southern Region

Ron began his full-time farming after his graduation and was married to his wife Patti. They have a son.

In his Greenhand year Ron raised five acres of cotton and produced a chapter record yield of 700 pounds of lint cotton per acre. This early success, encouraged him in his farming program.

Ron found that certain fields can be double cropped with wheat followed by soybeans and he has produced outstanding yields in both crops.

In 1975 he was named the Southern Region winner of the Crop Production Proficiency award, sponsored by the producers of Funk's G-Hybrids.

Besides FFA activities, he played football and was a leader in his church youth group.

EARL HAMILTON of Conneaut Valley, Pennsylvania, Chapter is FFA's Eastern Region candidate for Star Farmer of America.

By the time Earl entered vocational agriculture he had managed to earn and/or "love away" seven head of dairy cattle from his father. It was also about this time that Mr. Hamilton became extremely ill and, fearing a long recovery period, sold the milking cows as the older children, with interests other than farming, had moved away.

As Mr. Hamilton recovered, Earl, along with his mother and brother, began to rebuild the milking herd. Earl devoted his time to managing the herd and keeping records. He implemented Dairy Herd Improvement Association records, breeding selection and scientific feeding.

Earl Hamilton
Eastern Region

Earl found many opportunities to use the knowledge gained in vo-ag under the guidance of his instructor Charles Mostroller.

Earl's efforts have increased the herd average from 13,000 to 16,000 pounds of milk and from 471 to 600 pounds of butterfat in five years.

Earl's program is a 50-50 partnership with his father and includes 74 dairy cows, 50 heifers and 160 acres of corn, silage and hay. He is living in and remodeling the family's second farm home. He is also a member of several dairy organizations.

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See your Air Force Recruiter for more information, mail in the attached card, or call toll free 800-447-4700 (Illinois: 800-322-4400).

AIR FORCE-A GREAT WAY OF LIFE

★ STAR AGRIBUSINESSMEN ★ of America

GARY ROBERSON of Olympia, Washington, wants to own and operate a retail nursery. He was recently nominated as the Western Region candidate for Star Agribusinessman of America.

"My future started in junior high school when Lee Coumbs, the agriculture instructor, stopped by the school one afternoon and asked if I would like to help set up a landscape display at the fairgrounds."

Following that summer Gary enrolled in vo-ag and during his second year he was offered a part-time job at the nursery. "My main job was to water and carry merchandise out for people," Roberson recalls. But soon he was doing more helping people pick out vegetables and flower plants and eventually operating a register.

Gary Roberson
Western Region

In 1976, Gary was national winner of the FFA Agricultural Sales and Service Proficiency award sponsored by Allis-Chalmers Corporation.

In the spring of 1976 Roberson took the Washington Certified Nurseryman's test and became one of the youngest persons to pass the test.

Gary has taken all the horticulture classes offered in high school and has taken several classes at nearby Centralia College.

Gary can often be found studying history. Recently he completed five years of research which will be publicized in a book called "A Pictorial History of Centralia, 1900-1950."

BRIAN DUFFY of Clyde, Ohio, FFA was recently named the Star Agribusinessman of America candidate from the Eastern Region.

Brian wants to become an elevator manager like his dad. Working at the Green Springs Cooperative for his dad has given Brian a wide variety of experiences. In four years he worked at the elevator, Brian has learned every phase of elevator operation from formulating and blending feed and fertilizer to receiving grain, operating the complex machinery of the elevator and handling customer relations.

Brian is a very personable young man who gets along well with his fellow employees and with his employers, according to his vocational agriculture instructors Robert J. Meyer and Deb Reinhart.

Brian Duffy
Eastern Region

After graduation from high school, Brian spent a year working full time at the cooperative before deciding additional education would be necessary.

Although Brian's work schedule has left him little spare time, he has been an active FFA member. In 1976, he was named the Eastern Region winner of the Agricultural Sales and Service Proficiency award sponsored by Allis-Chalmers Corporation.

Outside the FFA he was a member of the wrestling team and continues to be active in the church gospel singing group which travels throughout the state.

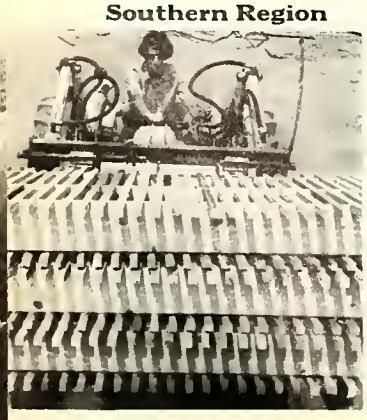
ANTHONY THOMASON of Stephens County, Georgia, FFA was named the Southern Region candidate for Star Agribusinessman of America.

The Thomason family was in the broiler business, raising up to 55,000 broilers per year until 1979.

That year they decided to switch from broilers to breeder hens. But the change from broilers to breeder hens was not without problems. The biggest problem for Anthony and his father was to prevent hens from laying eggs on the ground.

They experimented with one small house and finally discovered slatted floors made with wooden slats eliminated the problem. The idea worked so well that other poultrymen became interested in the system. The Happy Hen Slatted Floor Company and Poultry Farm was born.

AnthonyThomason
Southern Region



Today the company employs four full-time workers to construct over 16,000 slatted wooden floor units annually. The floors are sold all over the southeast United States and more recently to Venezuela.

In addition to the slatted floor business, Anthony assists his father in the care of 21,000 breeder hens.

Anthony's vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor was Ferman Gregory. In 1973, he was regional winner of the Placement in Agricultural Sales and Service Proficiency award sponsored by Allis-Chalmers.

MICHAEL DEMING, the Central Region candidate for Star Agribusinessman of America, of Owatonna, Minnesota, operates a materials handling equipment dealership.

The opportunity to go into business for himself had come in the fall of 1974 when Michael's former employer, faced with a long recovery after a serious back injury, offered to sell his business. With the backing of his father and financial support from the Agricultural Credit Department of Northwestern Bank, Michael began his own business.

Now, three years later, Michael is well established in his business and on his way to becoming one of the area's leading Patz dealers according to his Patz district sales manager.

Michael Deming
Central Region

Since purchasing the dealership, Mike expanded by adding a silo line and opening a dealership for milking equipment.

His wife Karen is a big help in the business and takes calls and relays them over the CB radio.

Mike was on the chapter Dairy Cattle Judging team under the supervision of vo-ag instructors Glenn Edin, Don Barber and Brian Kosel, that took first place in the 1972 national contest in Kansas City. As a result of their win there, the team was given the opportunity to represent the FFA in the International Dairy Show which was held in Wales, England, where they placed fourth.

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Geothermal energy (earth heat) provides steam that could power electric plants.

Of course, we're pleased that our initial exploration efforts have resulted in significant new additions to America's known energy reserves. But more work still needs to be done. So at Phillips, we're going to do a lot more than just scratch the surface.

Developing new energy resources for the future. That's performance. From Phillips Petroleum.

The Performance Company

PHILLIPS 66

How To Pull It Off With Publicity

By Mary Beth Lang

SMALL Animals Day, Farm On The Lawn, Children's Barnyard—no matter what you call them, they're popular with kids and FFA chapters all over. A lot of work goes into setting up these farm animal exhibits for school children. But if you're taking the time to organize a good animal exhibit, why not invite your whole community?

That's what they do at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, "and it's been a huge success," says Mike Turba, 1977 chairman of Wisconsin's Small Animals Day and a former Wisconsin State FFA Reporter.

"In fact," says Mike, "we had more than 4,000 parents and children here at Small Animals Day in four hours to see and touch the baby animals."

How do they get so many people at

Baby animals always catch their eyes.

Small Animals Day year after year? "Fifty to 75 percent hinges on publicity," states Mike.

And publicity is the big difference between the school animal exhibit and a community event. You've got to let people know what's going on. With a little know-how and a lot of forethought, any FFA chapter can publicize and host a successful Small Animals Day.

Where do you begin? First, set up a publicity committee of four or five members two months before the event. Carefully survey all the print and broadcast media available in your area and decide which media you'll use. Then draw up a week-by-week plan of action.

Newspapers are the most receptive and effective publicity media in a community. According to Mike, "By randomly asking people at Small Animals Day, we found 40 percent heard about it through newspapers."

To start your newspaper campaign, call the editors of your area papers about 2½ weeks before the event. Ask if you can stop by for a few minutes to talk to them about Small Animals Day. Keep in mind that a weekly paper's deadline is generally three or four days before it's published. And a large weekly or daily paper has many editors so make sure you speak to the editor who covers community events.

At your visit, have a fact sheet ready to give the editor listing all vital information—what is Small Animals Day, who's sponsoring it, when and where. And be sure to include the name and number of a person to contact for more information.

Also be ready with story and photo ideas. Bring along some sharp closeup photos of animals and children, you have to show what kind of pictures he can get. If an editor isn't interested in doing a feature story before the event,

A closeup reveals their seriousness.

suggest he send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the day.

Follow up your visit by sending a news release to daily papers the week before the event.

You also need to contact radio and television stations at least two weeks in advance.

"Get a lot of radio coverage," advises Mike. Talk to the program directors at your local radio stations. Are there any radio talk shows you can appear on the week before the event?

All stations air public service announcements (PSA's). A PSA is a free short announcement about services, events or programs. Ask the person in charge of PSA's whether you should write the announcement or if they'd rather write it themselves from a fact sheet you provide.

Any PSA you write should be 10, 20 or 30 seconds long (10 seconds is 25 words) and give listeners all important facts and a number to call for more information.

If there are a lot of radio stations in the area, work with two or three that hit all your audiences—kids, parents and grandparents.

If you have access to television stations in your immediate area, make an appointment with the station's public service director to tell him about Small Animals Day.

For a television PSA you'll probably need to supply color slides and a script for a 10-, 20- or 30-second spot. The slides should be action shots of animals and people with one slide spelling out "Small Animals Day, the date, time and place." Stations usually need PSA's at least 10 days before you want them aired.

Each station is different, though, some run local PSA's, some don't. But "with a 10 second spot you can almost insure it'll be aired," encourages Mike.

When you visit with the public service director find out if the station has any interview shows you might appear on. Also find out who and when to contact for an evening news feature.

Remember, newspapers, radio and television are always looking for the new, the unusual, something that's going to catch their audience's attention.

Use publicity to invite your whole community to cuddle a baby rabbit, pet

Catch the action of kids discovering.

a lamb, see chicks hatch and learn about farm animals. And by publicizing your event, you'll at the same time be publicizing FFA and giving everyone a closer look at your local FFA chapter.

The FFA Today

"It's never lost its pride in what has been and its vision of what can be in the future."— *Jimmy Carter*

FFA at 50

H. N. Hunsicker
National FFA Advisor

FFA at 50 is an organization with its prestige at an all-time high. One reason is the fact that during the last 50 years FFA has changed as the need to change has been identified. Perhaps the greatest of these has been the change from an organization serving the production segment of agriculture to one serving the total industry of agriculture including agribusiness.

When we look back on the 50-year history of FFA, several trends emerge that provide direction for the future.

The awards program developed by FFA has matched the instructional program of the classroom and laboratory. This was unique at the time and pioneered the concept in student organizations.

Leadership trends have stressed the involvement of all students. The FFA started as a member organization with many people wanting to know what the FFA is all about. The key to FFA's future is to get every student of vocational agriculture interested in the FFA. And not only interested, but involved. It is only through involvement that you have enthusiastic students.

FFA contests have continued to change with many new developments underway that have value to the instructional program.

There is one point we must recognize, however. The prestige and importance of FFA is in proportion to that of the industry of agriculture itself. When prestige was low for the industry, it was low for FFA. It returned when people realized that food and agriculture is important—not only to feed the world but also for economic gain, balance of trade and humanitarian reasons; such as when we provide food for other countries not blessed with the fertile soils and a favorable climate for large scale production.

FFA is respected today because members have held on to many of the traditions that have made America great. FFA members are willing to work, they are personable and, for most part, come from wholesome families and most of them are religious families. Entrepreneurship is emphasized. This is one reason people in business and industry are willing to support the FFA. Another reason is the training members receive enables them to succeed.

One of the FFA's greatest strength's is the fact that we have college trained teachers of vocational agriculture. Many of them were FFA members themselves.

Certainly the future of America and her agriculture is bright. A part of that future belongs to you and I am fully confident that you will help make the next 50 years of FFA even greater than the past 50 years have been.

The FFA Today

James Bode
National FFA President

EVERYBODY likes a winner. When I first heard that phrase I had to disagree. I thought of the guy in my school who wore all the medals on his letter jacket and was willing to tell everyone of his heroic deeds. On the other hand, though, everyone does like a winner because we all enjoy being part of a success story. Have you ever met anyone who was ashamed to admit he was on a winning team?

As FFA members we can all claim to be a part of a winner, for as we look at the golden past of our organization we can certainly see success. President Carter is only one of a long line of people who give credit to the FFA for their leadership skills.

More importantly, there are those thousands of former FFA members who have gone into the industry of agriculture and are winners in their own right. They may not be famous but they have made U. S. agriculture the envy of the world and we all sense that victory each time we sit down to a meal. The FFA track record has been impressive.

Why has the FFA been such a winner? It was not so long ago that only four men sat down at a little wooden table in Blacksburg, Virginia, to plan a club for boys in vocational agriculture which would later become the FFA. Why did we grow so strong? Well, everyone likes a winner and individual FFA members have always been winners. We can see this every day in FFA chapters everywhere.

The Greenhand stands to speak at his first chapter meeting. Then again, and again, and again, because he knows he is willing to back up his words and deeds, his opinion will be heard.

The 16-year-old stays up through the cold night to make sure that litter of baby pigs arrives safely. Sure, maybe most of them would survive even if he were not there but he wants them all to live and no less.

The teacher wants to do more to help young people than to stand in front of a classroom with a book in his hand, so he sacrifices his time and effort to be an FFA advisor. He knows his help will last and be remembered.

A timid young lady goes over and over a speech in her mind then stands to give it and forgets a whole paragraph. She's a winner, too, because she knows the mistake was silly and won't happen next time.

The FFA names winners by giving trophies, plaques and ribbons in a large variety of contests. But the FFA makes winners by giving thousands a chance to improve themselves by testing their skills and growing in their abilities.

The FFA is an organization of winners and it will continue to progress as long as people want to become winners. As an officer this year, I have tried to inspire FFA members and help them see that being the kind of winner they want to be is possible, but it is my great hope that I have not misled anyone to believe it will be easy. I cannot say that winning is just around the corner no more than I say that life is free and money grows on trees. But I can say that winning is possible and it is very rewarding. After all, everyone likes a winner.

The FFA Today—printed by *The National FUTURE FARMER* as a special section in the October-November, 1977, issue. The Editors worked with other FFA staff to present an overview of the organization as it stands in its 50th year. We hope that you the reader will feel informed and inspired by this effort to record another American success story.—The Editors.

Cover and Carter photos by K. Elliott Nowels

The President Speaks to FFA

On Thursday morning, July 21, 80 state FFA officers gathered in the White House Rose Garden to visit with President Jimmy Carter. The event was part of the State Presidents' Conference held annually in Washington, D.C. After brief remarks by Midge Costanza, his witty assistant, the president stepped out and began speaking to the blue-jacketed group. The following is a verbatim account of his talk.

Almost every time when I come out to replace Midge Costanza, the audience is always disappointed. This is one group where I might have an advantage, though, because I am part of you—not only now as President, but also throughout my life. The first office I ever held was as secretary of the Plains High School FFA Chapter. (Applause)

I was an isolated and timid country boy, and I began to learn about organizational structure, and I began to learn about competition. I began to learn how to make a speech. And I began to learn how to work with other people.

I also learned the value of agriculture, farm families, stability, commitment, idealism, hope, truth, hard work, patriotism from the FFA.

Ours was a family that didn't have electricity on our farm then, and we lived and worked, as I said in a book I wrote, much more as farmers did 2,000 years ago than as farmers live today.

The Future Farmers of America have presented to farm adults agricultural leaders, political leaders from cities and farms, new ideas and new concepts of innovation, experimentation and growth. The FFA has always worked very closely with community problems, always worked very closely with experiment stations. And although my later training was in nuclear physics as a scientist and engineer, I recognized very clearly there is no single entity in our economic structure that is more innovative, much more eager to try new ideas and concepts than the farmers of this country. And it has paid rich dividends.

I learned about politics in the FFA in a good sense. I found even then that many of the battles we fought during the 1930's and 1940's in which my father participated were decided here in Washington. And although before the advent of the rural electrification plan my father and our family had been very close to the farm geographically without traveling much, my daddy, who was the first director of the Central Electric Membership Corporation, on occasion would have to come to Washington in a fight to protect the REA program when Roosevelt was President.

It expanded the horizons of our family and taught me there is a strong commitment and responsibility of agricultural leaders and workers to help shape the policies of our Nation, not only for our benefit and advantage, but for the benefit of the world.

My first building project—I had forgotten about it but in your recent FFA magazine, I noticed my old agriculture teachers said it was a building of a little rough hewn model of the White House. (Laughter) I have to admit that I never thought I would live here. I was hoping some time I might look at it through the cracks in the fence, but I have come further.

I think, again, that illustrates there is no limit on what we can do if we share experiences with one another and recognize the opportunities in the greatest nation on earth where background and a lack of experience is no obstacle to further achievement in politics or business or government or in the management of our own affairs.

When I came back home from the Navy in 1953, I continued a commitment that my father had made. And each year when the Plains FFA Chapter chooses its Outstanding Member of the Year, Carter's Warehouse, which is my business, always sponsors the trip to the Kansas City Convention for that star FFA student. And I have to admit, I think because of that I was made an honorary lifetime member of the FFA. But that kept me tied in with the FFA students at the junior and senior high school level.

I was able to come to Kansas City and speak to your convention, and I was excited and thrilled by the good response of almost 18,000 FFA delegates from around the country.

So you have one of those precious possessions in your hands—the ancient history of future farmer organizations and the bright hope of the future.

I am very proud to be part of one of the finest organizations on earth that has never lost its pride in what has been and its vision of what can be in the future.

I want to thank you for coming to the White House. You are leaders among tens of thousands of other leaders, and that puts not only a great pressure and opportunity in your life, but also a heavy responsibility on your shoulders. It is a very reassuring thing for a President to be able to stand here in the Rose Garden, near the White House where every President has lived except George Washington—it was built when he was President—and see the intelligence and the idealism mirrored in your faces, because I feel in the future our country will be even greater than it has been in the past.

I thank you for letting me be a part of it.

The National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Future Farmers of America

IT'S people.

It's the Future Farmers of America. Over one-half million young men and women like you—people—involved in learning about agriculture in the high school classroom and applying what they learn in practical situations, like in the greenhouse or on the farm. This "learning by doing laboratory" is an integral part of vocational agriculture in 8,500 schools across the country.

As the great industry of agriculture continues to grow in significance, the people that work within it, whether it's on the ranch, in the forest or in the farm shop, will also be more significant. With its mission of training leaders for careers in agriculture, the FFA will continue to grow in importance, too.

The FFA is essentially a "grass roots" organization with national context and direction. Most of the important action is on the local level, but it takes many different people on many different levels to fit it all together for maximum impact. Town, county, district, region, state and nation, at all points there are people who fit in their important part of the puzzle.

In your local community it's the FFA advisor and vo-ag instructor and his supporting cast. The school board, the high school principal, an alumni affiliate, a young farmer group and an understanding wife. All combining forces to further the FFA toward its vocational and educational aims.

Individual chapters are bound into state associations. There are state advisors, officers and staff members who help make decisions related to concerns of all members statewide.

Nationally it is the FFA Board of Directors and consultants to that Board. This group includes people from the U.S. Office of Education, regionally elected representatives of the state associations, vo-ag teachers, teacher educators and the national officers. A diverse group to get diverse input.

From the broad general policy recommended by the student delegates at each National Convention in Kansas City, the Board formulates specific policy and direction for the huge organization. Development and implementation of the programs begins with the national staff located at the National FFA Center. They carry out the day-to-day operation of the FFA, work out the details and communicate the finalized policy and program to the state staffs and to the local members and advisors.

Ideas from members in chapters across the nation on up to national decisions, then back once again to a majority rules vote in the local chapter. This democratic cycle gives us a united stand and a steady course. It's *people* all along the way.

It's the Future Farmers of America.

Members of the National FFA Board of Directors and National Officers. Back row, left to right: Byron Rawls, Homer Edwards, J. W. Warren, John Bunten, G. G. Scroggins, Julian Campbell, C. M. Brewer, Martin Mitchell, Paul Day. Seated: Coleman Harris, Julie Smiley, Sam Brownback, James Bode, Bruce Maloch, Rick McDaniel, Danny Schiffer, and Neville Hunsicker, Chairman of the Board.

Leadership

By Coleman Harris
National FFA Executive Secretary

Coleman Harris

THE founding fathers of the Future Farmers of America were wise in establishing a leadership development organization of, by and for the students. Vocational agriculture instructors advise FFA officers and members on the activities of their organization. The advisor insures that FFA activities are a part of vocational agriculture instruction in the school. The instructor utilizes the FFA as a leadership laboratory to better prepare young people for careers in agriculture. The FFA members plan, organize and run their chapter for fellowship, for fun, for competition, for recognition and for the purpose of learning and to be identified with agriculture.

From the very beginning the organization has been successful in challenging young people to strive for leadership responsibilities. Desiring, preparing and competing for a position of leadership is learning by doing at its best. While many organizations are trying to get someone to accept an office, FFA nominating committees are receiving applications and interviewing officer candidates. You have to work in the FFA if you are going to be good enough to be an officer.

It all begins with the incoming student who is challenged to learn the FFA Creed, participate in a chapter meeting, serve on committees, become involved in chapter activities and achieve the Greenhand degree. The bronze pin of the Greenhand degree and the blue and gold jacket mark the beginning of an exciting and never ending leadership ladder. There is always something ahead in the FFA.

Soon after the goal of Greenhand has been achieved, many other individual leadership development opportunities are made available. FFA's new Student Handbook is an excellent way to discover the many avenues for involvement. Every student of vocational agriculture should have his/her own personal copy. This exciting 160-page, four-color, highly illustrated handbook will walk you step-by-step through each of the FFA degrees, the awards programs, parliamentary procedure and many other subjects of interest to members and their chapter.

Most vocational agriculture instructors utilize activities such as public and Creed speaking as a part of classroom instruction. All students are involved and have the opportunity to improve their speaking ability and develop confidence. The top speaker in each class will compete in a chapter contest, and then at competitions above the chapter level. But, what about those who don't win? Is it over? No, actually it's just begun. In most chapters there is extemporaneous speaking, demonstration contests and, of course, the activity FFA is famous for, parliamentary procedure.

There is always something ahead in the FFA and there is no substitute for determination, hard work, involvement and participation.

Chapter group activities also provide avenues for leadership development. Chapter safety projects, community development efforts, fund raising events, FFA WEEK activities and many more school and community projects provide FFA members real life situations in which to apply leadership principles and skills. In vocational agriculture, we emphasize on-job agricultural skill training, but here we are talking about on-job leadership skill training and the community or school is the laboratory.

But still the most rewarding and meaningful leadership development experience in the FFA is being an officer. By being an active chapter member, students develop the basic skills to serve as good committee members, successful committee chairmen, informed assistants, junior or mini-chapter officers and finally through much work and determination, a chapter officer. Chapter officers get involved in leadership development experiences above the chapter level. Most states offer area leadership workshops normally operated by state officers. Twenty-five states have camps or leadership centers offering programs for officers and, in most cases, chapter members.

Tony Hoyt is the program specialist for leadership. One of his major responsibilities is that of coordinating the work of the National FFA Officers.

Each summer in Washington, D.C., officers from chapters nationwide participate in personal development workshops, visit the nation's Capitol, see the National FFA Center and visit with their home district Congressmen. All of this happens as a part of the Washington Conference program. In 1977, the program operated for eight weeks (including the State Presidents' Conference) and served over 1,000 members, advisors and wives.

Beyond their chapter experience many FFA members look to district, section, federation and state offices to further develop and serve the FFA. Officers at this level, help train chapter officers, work with adult state leaders to plan and operate the state conventions or conferences and speak at chapter banquets and degree ceremonies. State officers serve to inform, but more importantly, to inspire chapter members to improve themselves and reach their full potential.

State officers get training also at regional conferences run by National FFA Officers. The regional meetings prepare officers to be better speakers and more knowledgeable leaders.

Achieving the American Farmer degree and being selected as a state's candidate, are the qualifications necessary to run for National FFA Office. Sounds easy. No! But possible. And, it's a goal worth working toward. A national officer takes a year out of school or away from work to travel nationwide, and at times internationally, to represent the FFA. They set the pace and provide great inspiration to FFA members, as well as adults. How do national officers do such a good job? It's participation in FFA from saying the Creed to winning a public speaking contest, from seconding a motion to chairing the parliamentary team, from being a Greenhand to being an American Farmer, and from committee member to National FFA Officer. It's taking advantage of what's always ahead in the FFA.

Awards

By Bob Seefeldt
Program Specialist, Awards

Bob Seefeldt

CONTESTS and awards have always been a part of the FFA. In fact, the National FFA Organization became a reality because of the intense interest.

The Vocational Education Acts of the 1960's broadened the scope of vocational agriculture to more than farming. To continue to meet the needs of all students enrolled in vocational agriculture, the FFA also broadened their scope of involvement. As an example, today FFA members can receive recognition in 22 separate areas in the Agricultural Proficiency Award Program. These award programs range from the traditional production areas of crops and livestock production to the horticultural areas of turf and landscape management, nursery operations and floriculture. There are also areas of recognition for those FFA members who have career goals of outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife management. Each of these proficiency award programs complement and supplement the particular instructional program in which the student is preparing for a career. They are designed to reward accomplishments and inspire FFA members to greater achievements.

Since the FFA degree program was started in 1928, separate awards have been developed to recognize the leadership and career development accomplishments of FFA members in each degree at the local, state and national levels. In 1928, the top American Farmer degree recipient was named first Star Farmer of America. This was followed by providing the opportunity for each state association to name their top State Farmer as Star State Farmer in 1946. Additional recognition was made available in 1950 when all local chapters were provided the opportunity to recognize their top chapter as Star Chapter Farmer. By 1960, Star Greenhands were being selected from among the beginning members. With the expansion of agriculture into the areas of agribusiness came the award areas available for members with non-production agriculture supervised experience programs. In 1967, the first Star State Agribusinessman and Star Agribusinessman of America were selected.

In addition to the numerous incentive awards available to the individual FFA member the FFA also provides encouragement and recognition for activities conducted by the entire chapter membership. These programs include the popular National Chapter Award Program which was first begun in 1930, the National Chapter Safety Award Program initiated in 1950 and the Building Our American Communities Program established in 1971. Each of these programs provide excellent opportunities for leadership development of individual chapter members while assisting in making the home and school community a better place to live, learn, work and play.

To provide the needed finance to help conduct these competitive activities, the National FFA Foundation was organized in 1944. The FFA Foundation is designed to finance activities that enhance the educational opportunities that contribute to greater achievement in school and in agriculture. Since its beginning in 1944, $8,252,703.00 have been collected and invested in FFA members.

With the continued change in agriculture and with more urban and suburban students becoming involved in vocational agriculture, the FFA award programs will also need to change. Numerous new activities will need to be developed and funded to meet the needs of the students enrolled in agriculture/agribusiness education.

Edward J. Hawkins
Administrative Director

Administration

The administration of FFA operations at the National FFA Center was reorganized in 1971. Two major changes were made by the FFA Board of Directors at that time. One established the position of administrative director to assist the national advisor in carrying out the policies established by the Board. The other provided for a central accounting system for the handling of all FFA money.

The administrative director is Edward J. Hawkins. He served as manager of the FFA Supply Service for 19 years prior to being named to his present position. The chief accountant is George Verzagt who came to work for the FFA in 1975.

The growth of FFA brought on a corresponding growth in fiscal matters related to the organization. This includes the handling of all income, paying bills, managing cash flow, taxes, payroll, insurance and others.

George Verzagt
Chief Accountant

Contests

By Ted Amick
Program Specialist, Contests

Ted Amick

THE history of national contests in vocational agriculture dates back to 1925 with the first Vocational Dairy Judging Contest at the National Dairy Show in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Now, in 1977, over 112,000 members participated above the chapter level in one of the contests conducted by the National FFA Organization. To win a National FFA Contest is a great honor but to have participated as a member of one of the teams competing is an unforgetable and worthwhile experience.

The Farm Business Management Contest is the most recent contest added. A total of 26 teams participated at the first contest in 1976. Participants are asked to analyze records, determine types of farm business organizations and complete various types of records and accounts.

The Horticulture Contest was started in 1972. When FFA enrollment expanded into the agribusiness sector, this contest met a very special need for the non-farm members. Participation in 1976 increased to 39 teams.

The Horticulture Contest has four team members instead of the usual three for other contests. Two students compete in a nursery section and the other two compete in the floriculture section. Competition in both sections includes identification of plant materials, judging classes and general knowledge examinations.

Agriculture Mechanics was also added as a national contest in 1972. Five instructional areas tested in this contest include: agricultural mechanics skills, power and machinery, electric power and processing, structures and environment and soil and water management in agriculture. A rotational plan has been established to test three of the five areas each year.

Contestants are given the opportunity to demonstrate practical hands-on activities learned through their vo-ag classroom instruction.

Several major changes were made in the Poultry Contest in 1976. Oral reasons returned to the contest on production hens and production pullets. A class of ready-to-cook turkeys was added. The broiler-breeder female class was eliminated. In egg grading a class of broken-out eggs was added. These changes have enhanced the wholesale phase of the contest. A total of 35 teams competed in 1976.

Participants in the Meats Contest are required to place five meat classes, grade 10 beef carcasses on quality, grade 10 beef carcasses on yield and identify 25 retail cuts of meat. A total of 36 teams were in this contest in 1976.

The Milk Quality and Dairy Foods Contest involves scoring of milk and cottage cheese samples on flavor, scoring of sediment pads on degree of sediment, identifying cheese samples, scoring milker unit heads on defects present and a written examination on milk production and marketing.

In the Dairy Cattle Contests, contestants place nine classes each with four animals. Contestants are required to provide oral reasons on two of the cow classes. Forty-six teams competed in 1976.

A total of 48 teams participated in the 1976 National FFA Livestock Judging Contest. Participants grade classes of feeder calves and slaughter and feeder cattle. Later that morning they place six classes of breeding and market beef, sheep and swine, grade a class of market swine and present three classes of oral reasons.

Both the dairy and the livestock contests have showmanship contests. States nominate showmen who actually show the animals during both contests. Contestants are awarded gold, silver and bronze category medals.

The Public Speaking Contest has long been a favorite. The National FFA Foundation provides awards to state winners plus travel and cash awards to the regional participants at the national contest.

Management of national contests is a year-round project. The eight superintendents handle the chore of making arrangements for each contest. This includes securing the contest materials such as plants, tractors, livestock, cheese and necessary manpower to conduct each contest. The national FFA staff coordinates the entire operation plus arranges for all printed supplies, rooms, facilities and sponsor assistance.

Computer scoring made its way into the contests in 1973. Each team is provided a complete printout which in-

Each year the Convention inspires thousands and brings the entire year's activities into national focus.

cludes scores for each section and a ranking of all teams and individuals for their contest.

To participate in a national contest members must be enrolled in a vocational agriculture/agribusiness course and compete in a similar state contest. They may not compete more than once in the same national contest.

Revision of the contests takes place every three years. A permanent study committee on national contests comprised of elected regional representatives meets each year during the National Convention.

Several new national contests have been approved and scheduled to begin in 1979. These include a division of the current Horticulture Contest into a floriculture contest and a nursery-landscape contest. This was done because students studying for a horticulture career usually study in only one of these areas.

An extemporaneous public speaking contest has also been approved and will be implemented in 1979 provided a special project sponsor has been secured.

BOAC

The Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program started in 1971 under a special grant of the Lilly Endowment, Inc. BOAC is an incentive award program to encourage young people to develop an understanding of the community action process. The program receives the full endorsement of the USDA and the Farmers Home Administration.

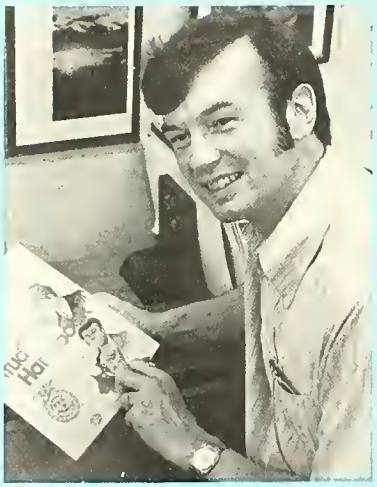
In conducting a BOAC program, chapters learn to study and identify community problems, work with civil and governmental groups in the planning, developing and completion of worthwhile community projects.

Safety

The FFA Safety Awards program recognizes a chapter's promotion of both agricultural and community safety. Chapters are recognized with a superior state award plaque and national awards in gold, silver and bronze categories.

Julian Campbell
National FFA Treasurer

The National FFA Treasurer is Julian Campbell, shown above reporting to the membership at a National FFA Convention. He is also state supervisor of vocational agriculture in Virginia. Every treasurer since the FFA began has been from Virginia.



Dan Reuwee

Information

By Dan Reuwee
Director of Information

IN 1944 the FFA organization employed a director of public relations and information. It was a big step for the 16-year-old organization, but significant perhaps because the Director of Public Relations was the first FFA employee. In the last 34 years four men have held the position of Director of Information which, right from the start, has included a multitude of activities and responsibilities.

Probably the best way to understand what the director of information does today is to think of the chapter reporter whose main responsibility is to keep the public informed of the activities of the FFA chapter and its members. To do the job the reporter works with the radio station, the newspaper and maybe even the television station. He or she has to write news stories and take pictures and the reporter may even put together a slide show for the chapter banquet or assemble a display for the fair. In much the same way, the national FFA director of information devotes his full time and the resources of the FFA organization to informing the public about the programs and activities of the FFA. It is a big assignment because FFA public relations involves communicating not only with the general public but also with FFA leaders and members.

The modern age of communications has opened many new opportunities for the FFA to communicate. The national organization makes use of all the news media including magazines, newspapers, radio and television to tell the story of the diversity of vocational agriculture and the FFA. The expansion of membership and the increased number of contests and awards has made good communications even more vital to help familiarize FFA members and leaders with the program and to gaining media recognition for the achievements of FFA members.

To most members the FFA information department is best known for special materials which effect chapter communications. Things like FFA films and a number of slide shows to help chapter members understand their organization are the result of efforts by the information department.

Some of the work done by the FFA information department is aimed at helping local FFA chapters do a better job of telling about the FFA in their own communities. In recent years the national organization has begun providing pre-recorded public service announcements for radio and television stations. The successful Food for America program also helps FFA chapters tell the story of agriculture and the FFA. The educational materials used by FFA chapters in the Food for America program are all developed as part of the work of the FFA information department. As a result of this effort FFA chapters in thousands of communities have generated good publicity for agriculture and the FFA.

The FFA information department is also involved in preparing copy or editing nearly every publication developed by the FFA program division. Some of the most recent materials published by the FFA include the Student Handbook, the FFA History and the new Reporter's Handbook.

Providing a well rounded public information program for the FFA is the main objective of the FFA information department. But no matter how many news releases or public service broadcasts are sent to the news media, FFA public relations still boils down to the impression made by each FFA member. Certainly when FFA members look good the FFA looks great.

The FFA Alumni

By Robert W. Cox
Administrative Secretary

Robert Cox

THE PURPOSE of the FFA Alumni is to unify interested persons in supporting and serving the FFA and vocational agriculture. Since it was organized in May, 1972, the Alumni has been successful in unifying over 13,000 active Alumni members in over 700 local affiliates. It has set membership growth records for alumni associations for several of these five years.

"FFA Alumni—Supporting Vocational Agriculture" became the motto of the FFA Alumni on July 19, 1977, by vote of the National FFA Alumni Council.

Currently the increased need for the FFA Alumni to become a voice of support for the FFA is being emphasized by the National Chairman, David C. Thomas, vice president of the Midcontinent Farmers Association in Columbia, Missouri. The Alumni Council has been involved in presenting the FFA and the vocational agriculture story on numerous occasions. The Alumni urged that the interpretations to Vocational Education Amendments include provisions for vocational student organizations. The Alumni encouraged the filling of the FFA executive secretary position by H.E.W. The Alumni has also assisted with securing appointments, such as the state FFA presidents' visit with President Carter. FFA Alumni are involved in many other areas of governmental affairs serving as a voice for vocational agriculture.

The National FFA Alumni sponsored 17 scholarships, valued at $2,380.00 for FFA members to attend the 1977 Washington Leadership Conference. For each 500 active FFA Alumni members in a state, one scholarship is provided. Wisconsin with over 2,500 members received five scholarships.

Continuing its role of support, the Alumni will provide four FFA leadership workshops during the 1977 National FFA Convention. These will provide, free to FFA members, the opportunity to attend one or more of leadership workshops scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the H. Roe Bartle Arena. The one-hour workshops will be conducted by former national FFA officers and other leaders of the agriculture industry. A special one-hour session has been arranged on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. for FFA advisors. This session will be titled "What the FFA Alumni Has to Offer."

The National FFA Alumni Association's membership fee of $4.00, which is one of the lowest membership fees for joining an alumni association, was established for the purpose of maintaining a national office, providing assistance to state and local affiliates, and providing support for the FFA.

A life membership fee of $100.00 was also established. This membership plan has proven to be of interest to a large percentage of FFA Alumni members. At present 1,012 members or almost 9 percent of the membership are life members.

What makes life membership so appealing? First, one belongs for life without paying annual national or state dues. Automatically, state dues of up to $2.00 are reimbursed to the state. Second, the life member receives a free subscription to *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. Third, is the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each life member is given the opportunity to designate an FFA chapter or state association to receive the entire $100.00 as a Memorial Scholarship in the life member's name to be used as an educational scholarship. The National FFA Alumni Association uses only the interest from the investment of the $100.00. The FFA Alumni, through its Life Membership Program, has over $100,000.00 invested for use by FFA members of the future.

The FFA Alumni is an asset in many communities because of their continued interest in and support of the FFA chapter and vocational agriculture.

The Alumni will celebrate FFA's 50th Anniversary by recognizing charter members of FFA (1928-1930) at the National Convention with a breakfast and special recognition ceremony.

The National FFA Alumni's major role is to serve as a catalyst for supporting the local and state associations. Membership list maintenance, promotional materials, and membership incentive programs are available to help at the local level. With over 700 local affiliates, the FFA Alumni is proving its ability to support the local FFA chapter. An outstanding FFA Alumni affiliate is selected each year at the National Meeting. The Evansville affiliate in Wisconsin with 47 life members and 31 annual members accomplished 30 activities that support their FFA chapter to win this award.

The Alumni continues to grow and new areas of support are being made possible by their organized efforts. The association recognizes anyone who assists with providing leadership and spends their time and energy to help build the FFA Alumni. The Legion of Merit Citation Award is presented to FFA members, advisors and others who sign up ten new members. A certificate is presented at the National FFA Alumni Convention to all persons that qualify. The requirements will be increased after this year's convention, so you should become a Legion of Merit winner now.

At the present and in the future, the FFA Alumni is important to you and the FFA. Your efforts will pay dividends to both you and your chapter.

For information on how to organize an FFA Alumni affiliate in your community or other questions on the FFA Alumni Association write to: National FFA Alumni Association, P.O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

The National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees in session.

The National FFA Foundation

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The National FFA Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees. These are the people currently serving on the Board of Trustees.

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National FFA Executive Secretary
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National FFA President (Ex officio without vote)
James Bode, Geary, Oklahoma

BUSINESS concerns, organizations and individuals have wanted to help the FFA since its beginning. For many years this was done on an individual basis without the aid of an organizational structure. In the 1940's, when FFA's popularity began to reach new heights, a system was needed to keep track of the swelling number of contributors from outside the organization. On March 29, 1944, the FFA Foundation was incorporated.

Today the FFA Foundation is as diverse as the FFA organization itself. It continues to grow and its investment in the agricultural youth of America continues to grow also.

In 1976, contributions of $838,541.02 were received from 1,446 businesses, industries, organizations and individuals. This represents an 18.9 percent increase in contributions over 1975, despite a seemingly uncertain and changing economy.

There are six categories of recognition for the individuals and companies putting forth financial support of the FFA through the Foundation. The contributor category honors those who give up to $100. If an individual gives $100 or more he achieves the executive designation. Bronze sponsors are those who give from $100 up to $499 and silver status is conferred on those in the $500 to $1,999 range. Contributors from that cut-off point up to $4,999 are in the gold category. Star status designates $5,000 or more given to the FFA through the Foundation.

What's the money used for? Over $300,000 is used to provide incentive awards in the taxonomy areas of vocational agriculture. For instance, proficiency awards in Crop Production or Forest Management, to name just a couple. Almost $100,000 was awarded to individual chapters through the National Chapter and Safety contests, as

The National FFA Foundation provides financial support for incentive awards which reward accomplishments and inspire FFA members to greater achievement.

well as the Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program. Honoring expertise in national contests such as Meats Judging or Public Speaking took about $77,000 and researching and producing educational and instructional films such as the "Food For America" film sliced off approximately $130,000. Twenty-seven thousand dollars went to the State Presidents' Conference and the remainder of the sum was divided between other special projects and general programs, as well as the operating expenses needed by the FFA Foundation to conduct its business.

This strong financial support organization, the FFA Foundation, acts in conjunction with the FFA Board of Directors, a body purposely composed of representative members and educators only. Programs approved by the Board of Directors and National Officers are forwarded to the Board of Trustees, who then decide whether or not individual programs should be funded and how.

This interface between education and industry serves to magnify the importance of FFA programs and the part they play in training young people for careers in agriculture. Many of these careers are represented by the contributing companies and individuals.

A list of incentive, educational and recognitional programs sponsored by the National FFA Foundation includes the following:

- 22 Agricultural Proficiency awards
- Public Speaking awards
- National Chapter awards
- National Chapter Safety awards
- Building Our American Communities awards
- Establishment in Agriculture awards
- Eight national contests
- Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America awards
- State initiated programs for improving agricultural leadership
- Food For America
- International "First World Conference and Agricultural Olympics"
- Student Handbook
- "Stars Over America" film
- State Presidents' Conference

And it's still expanding. Three new proficiency awards are being added in 1978, for nursery operations, turf and landscape management and fruit and/or vegetable production.

As this list grows with the organization, credit and gratitude must be placed where much is due—with the FFA Foundation and the contributors to the organization. Their time and money spent in seeing that FFA chapters and individual members are rewarded for a job well done should be acknowledged and appreciated.

Chairman-Elect 1979
Robert D. Lund
General Manager
Chevrolet Motor Division
General Motors Building
Detroit, Michigan

Chairman-Elect 1978
Clarke A. Nelson
Group Vice President
Carnation Company
Los Angeles, California

Past Chairman
Robert W. Engle
Vice President, General Manager
AVCO New Idea
Farm Equipment Division
Coldwater, Ohio

These four individuals make up the Sponsoring Committee's Executive Council.

The Foundation Sponsors

Chairman
David A. Phillipson, DVM
Vice President, General Manager
The Upjohn Company
Agricultural Division
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Contributors to the National FFA Foundation are called sponsors. Last year there were 1,446 sponsors made up of businesses, industries, organizations and individuals who contributed money and time to support the many FFA programs financed through the Foundation. This was the eleventh consecutive year the National FFA Foundation recorded an increase in the number of dollars contributed.

Major responsibility for securing sponsors to the FFA Foundation lies with the Sponsoring Committee and its Executive Council and the Action Committee. These individuals from business and industry generously give of their time to obtain sponsors for the National FFA Foundation. Pledges can be made directly to any member of the FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee or by sending a pledge card directly to the FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, P.O. Box 5117, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

Action Committee

William Harsh, executive vice president, Personnel and Services, Hallmark Cards, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri
R. M. Hendrickson, president, Agricultural Division, Pfizer, Inc., New York, New York
Jack E. Johnson, president, Steiger Tractor, Inc., Fargo, North Dakota
A. F. Kemnitz, publicity director, FS Services, Inc., Bloomington, Illinois
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Mary George Jordan Waite, president, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Centre, Alabama

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Executive Director
Sponsoring Committee
Donald M. McDowell
Madison, Wisconsin

Assistant Executive Director
Sponsoring Committee
Bernie Staller
Madison, Wisconsin

The Supply Service

THE National FFA Supply Service was started in 1948 to serve the local chapters and FFA members. Prior to that time each chapter ordering official FFA supplies had to order them from several different sources. It was suggested that these supplies should be bought together in one place so a chapter could fill out one order form and get all of the official FFA items they needed. The success of the Supply Service since that time has proven the need for such a service. This cooperative business owned by FFA has become one of the organization's most valuable assets.

The Supply Service is under the direct control of the FFA Board of Directors and National Officers. The FFA employs a qualified staff such as engravers, embossers, seamstresses to work at lettering of jackets, shipping specialists and order processors to provide the services.

At the present time the FFA Supply Service stocks over 600 items. The most popular of these is the traditional blue corduroy FFA jacket which has become a nationwide trademark of FFA membership. Other popular items are the silver ring with blue stone, FFA caps, windbreakers, banquet supplies and trophies for awards, denim jackets and notebooks.

It is through the Supply Service that the new Student Handbook will be made available. Similarly a complete line of audio visuals, the manual for chapter operation, paraphernalia for chapter meetings and proficiency awards plaques are distributed through the catalog.

There are three major reasons why the FFA operates its own Supply Service. These are: (1) to make all items of official FFA merchandise available from one source, (2) insure a uniformity in official FFA merchandise, and (3) to give members the advantage of quality merchandise at the lowest possible price.

The increase in business each year indicates the Supply Service is fulfilling its mission for the FFA.

New merchandise is added to the Supply Service inventory only after each item has been approved by the National FFA Board of Directors and National Officers. Suggestions for items to be added to the Supply Service inventory can be made directly to the Supply Service or through the Board of Directors or one of the National Officers. After these items are cleared through the National Board of Directors and National Officers, they become official and are then stocked for sale the following year. Such an item is a new girl's designer scarf introduced by Julie Smiley at the July '77 Board Meeting. It will be introduced and given sales trial at this National Convention.

A catalog listing the merchandise for sale and the price is printed each year and mailed to all local chapters, usually in August. The local advisor is expected to maintain control of the catalog and see that only official FFA members order the official FFA items.

A special catalog supplement of original items designed or specially identified for the 50th Anniversary were placed on sale in the summer of 1977. A contest was sponsored by FFA for a member to design an Anniversary medallion. Several medallions and related commemorative items feature that design such as key rings, plates and paperweights.

Each year in cooperation with *The National FUTURE FARMER* staff, the Supply Service offers a collection of promotional items which chapters and state associations use in celebrating National FFA WEEK. This celebration is always held during February around the week of George Washington's birthday. The chapters can purchase billboards, litterbags, church program covers, pens, pocket notebooks, name badges, displays and many other items to use in conjunction with newspapers, radio and television to get publicity for vocational agriculture and FFA.

The Supply Service tries to give the very best service to FFA chapters and members. Ordering directly from the catalog, using the order form provided and by mail, is the best procedure. A limited number of rush orders and telephone orders can be accommodated. However, it's easy for the rush orders and telephone service to overload the staff and facilities making it difficult, if not impossible, to provide this additional service in some cases. An additional cause for the delay in shipping orders is that nearly every item handled by the Supply Service must be personalized in some manner. This requires additional time to fill the orders. Another problem is that many orders received from chapters fail to include size, lettering, or other needed information. This only results in additional delays and is very costly. And of course all orders should be typed or printed clearly.

Some interesting statistics about the FFA jacket, have been developed. For example, it takes approximately 2¼ yards of 40-inch corduroy material to construct each FFA jacket. Corduroy

Supply Service managers examine the lettering on an FFA jacket, one of the most popular items sold by the FFA. The sale of jackets is now well into the third million. From left: Bill Skinner, Harry Andrews, Paul Kidd and Jimmy Long.

However, it's easy for the rush orders is being delivered to the supplier all year long and would stretch 128 miles if laid out all at once just to produce one year's supply of the FFA jackets. During the past 30 years over 2 million jackets have been delivered. The corduroy would reach nearly coast to coast (over 2,600 miles).

It takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes to completely letter the official FFA jacket. Multiply this number by over 112,000 (the number sold last year) and you can readily see the reason for slower deliveries during the fall season. Approximately 74,000 corduroy jacket orders arrive at the Supply Service between September 15 and November 30. This ten-week period is the heaviest ordering period for the official FFA jacket.

It's also interesting to know that 61 miles of wood pencils are purchased each year.

FFA International

By Lennie Gamage
Manager International Programs

Lennie Gamage

INTERNATIONAL activities today extend the travel and learning possibilities for FFA members far beyond the imagination of FFA members of the 1930's. In fact, the human tragedies of World War II first brought into focus the importance of international exchange in furthering mutual understanding. As Europe began recovery from a war that touched the lives of urban and farm families alike, FFA initiated an exchange of four delegates in 1949, now over 140 young people take part in long term exchanges each year.

International activities in 1977 focus on people—FFA members, agriculture teachers, FFA farm families, young farmers, young horticulturists and agribusiness people—all with a mutual desire to learn, to experience, to share, to grow and to understand this small world of ours.

Here's just a few of them:

- FFA members Sam Brownback, Bruce Maloch, Rick McDaniel and Julie Smiley making a VIP visit to Soviet agriculture, experiencing huge state farms, talking with Russian farm people. And four delegates from the USSR visiting Kansas wheat farms and seeing "FFA in Action" in Ohio.
- FFA members William Erwin, Kenneth Dillard, Wayne Seitz and Advisor W. H. Hood of Pleasant Hope, Missouri, taking top honors in the International Dairy Judging Competition at the Royal Welsh Show in Britain.
- Bilingual ag teacher Milton Galvez of Sarasota, Florida, surveying the needs of our sister organization the Future Farmers of Panama and developing a project for FFA assistance through financial support of the Agency for International Development.
- And it's people like State FFA Advisor Lee Traver of New York State. Advisor Traver, on a two-week professional exchange to the Central European country of Romania, begins a new era in cooperation between FFA and the Romanian vocational program in agriculture.
- Or, consider the public relations value of the blue jackets worn by State Officers Glenn Tyson of Arizona, Kelly Grant of Missouri, DuWayne Bauman, Doug Wevik and Alan Vedvei of South Dakota, Cliff Bailey of Georgia, Flake Brantly and Phil McLain, North Carolina, and James Licht, Michigan, as they represented FFA at the International Green Week Exhibition in Berlin and talked first hand with German agricultural educators.
- It's people like Mr. M. T. Jebraeli of Iran and educators from other continents visiting local FFA chapters and the National Center to develop a plan for organizing their Future Farmers.
- And it's Work Experience combined with fun and hundreds of learning experiences for FFA member Scott Abbott, Oakville, Washington, as he joined the Young Farmers Club of Pukeatua, New Zealand, in pasture judging and other club activities. Getting accustomed to coffee and "pulla" several times a day and enjoying the weekly "sauna" with her host family gave Renee Guthrie, Pala, California, an insight into rural life at Nummela, Finland.
- For German host farmer Gustav Schröder, Dave Crull, FFA member at Evansville, Wisconsin, was the fifth consecutive WEA'er to join the family.
- Illinois Future Farmer Patty Ryan enjoyed the experience of a lifetime in tracing her "roots" back to County Limerick, Ireland, where Ryan relatives abound.

These are only a few examples of international activities—opportunities for FFA members, their families and advisors to share in helping make our world a little bit smaller. Look at your Chapter Guide and see how you too might get involved!

The first of many "FFA at 50" flag-raising ceremonies took place at the State Presidents' Conference.

The National FUTURE FARMER

The FFA has a magazine today because the members wanted one. The subject was discussed at the second National Convention but it was to be 23 more years before FFA members were to see this desire fulfilled.

First as a quarterly in 1952, then a bimonthly in 1956, *The National FUTURE FARMER* is now a regular visitor six times a year to every FFA member's home.

Some of the early decisions made when the magazine was established chartered the course still followed today. It was to be a magazine for members and not just an organization house organ. The magazine would go to the member's home. The magazine was to have its own staff—separate and apart from the office of information. The editorial staff was given broad and final authority and are expected to use unbiased judgement in deciding what was to be printed on the editorial pages. And the articles printed there were to be those that would inform, inspire and be of interest to FFA members. Advertising would be accepted not only as a source of revenue but also to inform members of many of the latest developments in the industry of agriculture and related areas.

To accomplish this assignment, three separate departments must function efficiently. The work of the editorial, advertising and circulation departments is essential to the printing and distribution of the magazine. In addition, there is the business side of the operation that requires careful budgeting and managing of expenses to give FFA members the best magazine possible from its two sources of income, subscriptions and advertising.

It is incidental to its mission but important that the FFA magazine is one of the organization's most important public relations tools—helping inform others about vocational agriculture and the FFA.

The national FFA magazine's editorial and advertising staff. Seated, from left; Glenn Luedke, advertising manager; Wilson Carnes, editor; Jack Pitzer, associate editor. Back row; Rick Waitley, regional advertising manager; K. Elliott Nowels, associate editor; and Carlton Gabel, regional advertising manager.

Editorial

With the readership of *The National FUTURE FARMER* being the diverse group that it is, it's very difficult to make every article of every magazine appeal to everyone's interests. The editors realize this, but still put forth extra effort to have something for everyone in every issue. You, the reader, are the final judge as to the degree of which this is accomplished.

Subjects covered in the magazine are in the areas of FFA, agriculture and youth interest. These are handled in various ways as regular departments, agri-emphasis subjects, or feature articles.

Articles come from many sources. Most are written by the staff. Others come from FFA advisors, executive secretaries, chapter reporters, free lance writers and others who just send in something they thought we might like to print. Photographs, whether taken by staff members or obtained from others, assist in conveying the right message.

An attempt is made to cover stories throughout the country, so that you may read about what is happening in your region or across the nation. Sometimes a staff member will visit a member's home or a vo-ag department to get the full FFA story and keep in touch with audience attitude—how you feel about your magazine.

Being located just outside the nation's capital gives us the opportunity to get on the phone and find out more about the issues that affect youth in agriculture today. Maybe it's a new law concerning land use, or perhaps estate tax planning or energy policy.

Accuracy and integrity. Your editorial staff attempts to combine these things and more as we inform our audience of upcoming events, problems and potential solutions in the world of agriculture and the FFA. You are important to tomorrow's agriculture. By informing, entertaining and inspiring, we try to be important to you.

Two people who keep the editorial and advertising materials moving in the production of the magazine are: Jo Colley, left, editorial assistant and Laurie Welch, right, assistant in the advertising department.

Advertising

The advertising department's responsibility is to sell advertising for the magazine in order to provide a source of income to help pay publishing costs. But in addition to the income, good advertisements provide the reader with informative and educational messages about a company or product. In the past year, over one hundred companies placed advertisements in *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

The magazine employs its own sales force except in the western states where publishers' representatives are used. The magazine is represented by the Robert C. Whaley Company in Los Angeles and the Bob Flahive Company in San Francisco for advertising sales.

The advertising salesmen spend about 40 percent of their time in travel soliciting advertising. Current and prospective advertisers and advertising agencies are called on regularly.

Companies have the option of advertising nationally or in one of four regional editions. This allows them to publicize their products where distribution is strongest.

This department spends considerable time in research and developing sales material. Before an advertiser decides to advertise, they usually want to know such things as subscriber income, educational and occupational plans, size of livestock and crop operations, and related information. Sales materials are developed from this research data in order to provide a complete reader profile.

The FFA has adopted a rigid set of advertising policies to maintain a posture appropriate in the minds of its many readers.

The Official FFA Calendar

By Jack Pitzer

"What day is it? Monday? No, it's Tuesday . . . so it happens every day in all parts of America. Someone glances to see what day it is and is led to think about FFA. Public Relations it's called. And that's why the Future Farmers of America publishes the Official FFA Calendars. "To help local chapters create greater public awareness for vocational agriculture and FFA."

Calendars are a time honored and successful medium of communication. Everyone glances to see what day it is. In fact, the calendar is the second most "looked at" item in our lives—first is the watch.

The Official FFA Calendar program is an extensive one offering four different styles of high quality calendars. Chapters participate in the program in a variety of ways—with business sponsor's message, with chapter's message or with individual's message. Many chapters use calendars to say "thank you" for the great support of people in their community and the message on their calendar order reflects that appreciation.

Business firm sponsors still use the largest amount of popular Home and Office style calendars which feature 12 monthly color scenes of FFA'ers in action. In recent years the vinyl Wallet style was added and its popularity has sky rocketed. The Desk style and Poster style are still used in many communities.

Some chapters use the fund raising option in this official program and over $20,000 was paid to chapters last year in the form of commissions. These calendars are the only Official Calendars available from the National Organization and feature full color printing and high quality. Chapters are recognized for their participation in this program.

Nearly 1,500 are using the calendar program today to get publicity. They order via mail and receive direct mail promotions from the National Organization encouraging their participation. Ordering details and free samples are available on request in a Calendar Kit.

Each year the calendar features a central cover illustration. Since 1967 these have been painted by artist Arthur Sarnoff. The entire collection of 28 original oil paintings is housed at the National FFA Center.

In honoring the FFA Golden Anniversary, the 1978 FFA calendar cover features a montage of those 12 paintings by Sarnoff. The paintings are again reproduced as the monthly illustrations. They illustrate the 12 Purposes of FFA which is thus the theme for this Golden Anniversary edition of FFA Calendars.

To fill requests from many for these pictures, the organization has reproduced these paintings as an Illustrated Set of the Purposes. They are available from the Calendar Department which operates as part of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine at the FFA Center.

Circulation

Keeping the mailing list of over a half-million names updated is a big job for Adriana Stagg, circulation fulfillment manager, and a staff of up to ten people in the busy season.

With total circulation each issue now running about 530,000, the circulation department has an important job. They have the responsibility of preparing the labels for mailing the FFA magazine. The magazine utilizes a computer in this operation but much clerical work and keypunching is required to prepare the membership lists for the computer. During the busy season, up to three keypunch machines are used in this department.

In addition to placing the names in the system, address changes and corrections are constantly being made as this information is received in the magazine office. The mailing list is updated each issue so FFA members will get the very next issue it is possible for them to receive after their names and addresses are received by the circulation department.

The circulation department of the FFA magazine also has the responsibility of keeping the official membership records of the national organization. These records are used throughout the year for checking on a member's eligibility to receive the American Farmer degree, participate in contests or receive awards and to provide an official membership count for use in the distribution of Foundation funds, to establish degree quotas and similar uses.

The computer system also enables the organization to provide each state with a print-out of its membership by chapters for use in updating the membership roster and the paying of dues each year.

The FFA Today. You're part of it and it's growing. It's a composite of many pictures, a tapestry made up of many threads.

It can be seen in a milking parlor in Vermont, or on a ranch in Texas. It's visible in a corporate board meeting in Kansas City, or out in the orange groves of Florida. Maybe it's on a jet somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean, or in a high school greenhouse in Tennessee. You can see it in an Indian community in Arizona and in an Eskimo village in Alaska. People in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles know what it means and ag teachers in nearly 9,000 vo-ag departments know it's important. It's bringing together blacks, reds, whites, yellows and browns in this great country we call America.

FFA Today. It's a national organization, yes, even an international organization. But more important, it's just around the corner, in your town and county. FFA is you—the member—and you're making a difference.

Grow-Your-Own Business

CHRISTMAS TREE growing is a profitable use of land not suitable for cultivated crops. The members of the Housatonic Valley Chapter in Connecticut found this out as far back as 1941, when they planted their first trees. Today, chapter members plant over 1,000 trees each year on the unused pasture of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School property to replace the trees that are harvested and sold at their prosperous stand on U.S. Route 7 in Falls Village, Connecticut.

The FFA chapter obtains White spruce and Douglas fir seedlings from the state of Connecticut and plants them throughout their 11-acre plantation, spotting them in areas where trees have been harvested or culled. A close spacing is used, about 4 foot by 4 foot, without any problems, due to the constant removal of mature trees at Christmas time and a mortality rate of 25 percent for the seedlings.

The tree lots are maintained each spring and fall by chapter members who cut the brush and weeds that have become established in planted areas. Also, since White pine (Pinus strobus) is native to the area, there are a lot of volunteer White pine seedlings that can quickly grow into trees. These pine trees along with Red cedar (Juniperus virginiana) are cut after Thanksgiving and are used in the production of Christmas wreaths by the chapter. All the cull spruce and Douglas fir are made into door swags or bundles of greens, so that nothing is wasted.

The FFA chapter does not fertilize the plantation or use chemical weed control. Once they had to spray for Spruce Gall Aphid, and fortunately that problem never got out of hand. The plantation will produce a six- to seven-foot tree under these conditions in seven to ten years.

With the desire to produce a good quality tree, the chapter has begun a pruning and shearing program. In the past only double leaders were removed. Now, the FFA members are pruning for shape and density. The White spruce responds well to this type of management. In some cases, however, a year's growth might be lost; but through careful pruning, many more high quality trees can be produced.

The chapter sells these trees to the public on a cut-your-own basis or from the racks at the stand. The stand has been developed over the years to provide parking for 10-15 cars and a warm shelter for the FFA members who mind the stand daily for the three weeks before Christmas. FFA members are trained in and practice salesmanship from greeting the customers, showing the products, filling out sales slips and making change all the way to tying the trees onto cars.

The chapter uses USDA standards for Christmas trees to grade each tree that is sold. The trees are pre-graded in November, tagged and priced. Only tagged trees are sold and the prices range from $2 to $8 depending on size and quality. No tree under three feet is sold and all the culls are marked for removal.

The chapter's wreath making project is equally as successful. First, in late November, chapter members take orders for the wreaths within the communities of the school district. This consists of door-to-door sales in the six towns, an area of 250 square miles in northwestern Connecticut with a total population of 13,600. No commercial or garden club orders are taken—only individual orders because the chapter wants this to be a learning experience as well as a money making venture.

It takes over eight truck loads of pine boughs and four truck loads of cedar branches to make the wreaths.

The pine and cedar boughs are then formed into bunches and wired with florist wire.

Tiers take the bunches and wire them on heavy coat hangers. Next the wreath is clipped with a scissors to remove any pine shoots that are too long or out of place.

Finally, the wreath is decorated with three or four White pine cones (which were collected and prewired early in the fall) to the wreath. A bow made of plastic or velvet ribbon is added and additional color and texture is added by using branches of Mountain Laurel and red florist berries.

Since this project can create a mess of pine and cedar branches and burning is forbidden in the state of Connecticut, the chapter has resorted to the use of a chipper. The fine sawdust-like chips are available for use by members to mulch landscape projects and keep the tree and shrub nursery weed free.

The profits from the tree and wreath venture are used to maintain chapter equipment which includes a truck, tractor and rototiller. This project finances the development of the sales stand, sends students to the national convention in Kansas City and pays for the parent-student banquet each year, as well as many other worthwhile chapter activities. *(By Robert Gambino, Advisor)*

The chapter's sales area includes a complete warming shed where salesmen can keep warm during cold days.

A finished wreath weighs seven pounds and if made properly can be thrown up into the air and fall without damage.

Members will even cut the trees for a customer after they have selected one.

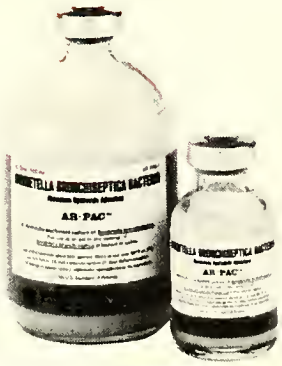
AR-PAC™

THE ONLY USDA LICENSED VACCINE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST ATROPHIC RHINITIS... A DISEASE AFFECTING 45% OF THE WORLD'S SWINE HERDS.

45% of the world's swine numbers are affected by Atrophic Rhinitis, causing destruction of the bony tissues in the snout, the pig's air filtering mechanism. Losses can be heavy from direct or indirect infections and some producers have been wiped out forever.

Another first from Chromalloy. The answer for one of the swine industry's most costly diseases, Atrophic Rhinitis, is AR-PAC™

Antibiotics and chemical agents have failed over the long haul due to short life and drug resistance. The surest and most effective way, and field trials and licensing show it, is immunization with Bordetella Bronchiseptica bacterin, AR-PAC™, available through the same dealer who handles ARMIDEXAN



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CHROMALLOY ANIMAL HEALTH

P.O. Box 3113 Omaha, Nebraska 68103

Chromalloy – A Corporate Family of Creative Companies

A Different Kind Of Livestock Show

BEING A GOOD livestock man requires more than an FFA project, a high school class or all the current livestock magazines.

So the Whitko Chapter at South Whitley, Indiana, sponsored a different kind of livestock show and called it a stockman contest. Members were evaluated on five areas including record books, livestock judging, showing, showmanship and interview.

The idea of the two-day show was suggested by a parent and an advisor. Animals were brought to local fairgrounds during the evening of the first day. Members had to present their record books at the time of the unloading. A former area ag teacher was selected to grade the record books. The animals were weighed-in and their rate of gain was calculated. Rate of gain was posted on the back of each member as he showed his animal on the second day. Twenty percent of the placing was based on this rate of gain.

On show day, the first activity was a livestock judging contest. A committee of FFA Alumni selected the classes, set up the cuts and asked the questions. Another committee scored the contestants.

A champion steer, lamb and hog were named at the livestock show. The showmanship contest determined those students who could handle their animals with style and care. Judges were hired from outside the school area to select the finest animals and judge the showmanship contest.

Rounding up the series of events, the students were interviewed in their general knowledge of livestock industry by community members, FFA Alumni and agribusinessmen.

The stockman contest, a project with an in-depth, new and exciting purpose, was a success and the chapter plans to continue it next year.

It combined all the areas needed to be successful in the livestock industry—selection, record keeping and general livestock knowledge. It provided awards and an incentive for members to improve themselves and their animals. It involved the community and provided an opportunity for FFA members and their families to work together on a project. *(By William McVay, Advisor)*

Everyone helped brother prepare his animal for the show.

A Farm In The Basement

By Lloyd Brune

A WORM is just a worm—right? Wrong. Those little wiggly favorites of fishermen and small boys can be big business.

That's the impetus behind a venture being operated by a Richmond, Missouri, member in the basement of his home.

Ray Shumaker solved the problem of where to have a supervised farming project in his own way. "I wanted to raise hogs or rabbits," he said, "but we didn't have enough space." So, on the strength of information gained from reading, from contact with other raisers and from encouragement by his FFA Advisor, Ray decided on worms.

Not just any worms, though. "They're red wigglers," the dark-haired sophomore said, "and will get from 2½ to 3 inches long, drawn up."

He's got about 200,000 of them in bins in his basement. Although his bins are about three by six feet and one foot deep, they can be of any size and shape. "It took me quite a while to get these," he explained, "going around and getting wood from old house sites."

Initially, the slender "farmer" found out, you don't just plunge into worm farming. You do it through careful examination of the potential, and of the firm where you get your initial stock. Worm raising stock isn't just dug out of the garden.

"We had about $700 worth when we started," he said, "but we lost them this summer. They died when it got hot."

That's when Ray and his mother learned that worms must be raised under certain specific conditions. "They have to be kept in temperatures from 55 to 85 degrees," he explained. "And they have to be kept moist, which makes a basement ideal."

But inventory growth can cause problems. Where can you keep 400,000 worms? Ray has an answer, but hasn't gotten the nod just yet from his partner. He wants to move upstairs, converting his basement bedroom to another worm "pasture." They keep the worms confined by shining a light over the bins.

Discussing what the worms live in, his mother laughed heartily and asked this reporter if he could smell anything.

Assured he could not, she then asked Ray to explain.

"They live in horse manure and eat rabbit droppings," he grinned, conceding that it had been treated to eliminate the smell.

"I made sure of that before we started," his mother laughed. She explained that the manure is washed repeatedly before being put in the basement bins.

Another reason for treating the manure is to maintain the proper acid-alkaline balance. "They have to have the right pH balance," Mrs. Shumaker said, "So we wash the manure."

When they want to fatten their worms for market, they transfer them to a special bin. That bin contains the usual manure, but the worms' diet is changed. "We feed 'em walnut meal and keep them separate because it makes worms fat and sluggish, and upsets the breeding cycle."

They have a market for their product, the partners said, in the company with whom they have a contract. But what will be done with the potential millions of worms?

"We'll sell them by the pound," Mrs. Shumaker said. "They sell for anywhere from $2.50 to $12 a pound. And each pound is about a thousand worms. A thousand worms is "about a double handful."

At the rate of $12.50 per pound, Ray has the potential to generate an income of from $125 to $300 per month from his basement beds, if he harvests from 10 to 25 pounds of worms per bed.

It can be big money.

But at this stage, though, the worms are still an FFA project, albeit a growing one. Ray is required to keep almost the same detailed records as a member would who raises a steer or a hog. "I'm using their book," he said, "but I've also adapted it to my project."

He has done so with the enthusiastic cooperation of his FFA instructor, who confesses to an interest in the project.

Before long, Ray and his mother will begin selling their product—"in about two or three weeks."

When they do, and the books begin to show a definite profit, they have plans. "We're thinking about finding a place where we can expand,"Mrs. Shumaker said, "but it would have to be an insulated building and would have to give us enough room for both growing and harvesting."

When they get it, their carefully researched $700 investment will begin to pay off for them and may be a youngster's future.

After all, those red, wiggly worms can be big business.

Gary has an excellent opportunity to learn the total farming operation.

Footsteps To Follow

By Gary Bye

Owners and operators of Teixeira Farms, an irrigated vegetable operation: Front row, from left, Allen, Norman, Gary, J. C. and Dean. Back row, Glenn and Marvin.

Harvesting vegetables is a big job and requires a lot of heavy equipment.

WHEN Gary Teixeira (pronounced Ta-share-a) was elected president of the Santa Maria, California, FFA Chapter last spring he was helping to carry on a family tradition. His father Norman Teixeira had served as the chapter's president in 1957. His uncle Allan had also been the chapter's president. So had his uncle Marvin. And his uncle Dean.

Gary and each of the uncles had been Star Greenhand and Star Chapter Farmer. Did Gary feel some pressure to step into the family's well worn shoes? "Not really," he confides. "My father encouraged me, but never really pushed me."

Gary, though he will only be a junior next year, seems to have the same instincts that helped his father and uncles rise to the top, not only in FFA but also as farmers in the Santa Maria area.

The chapter that Gary heads is in a school of approximately 2,400 students. Four hundred of those students are enrolled in vocational agriculture. The agriculture department has three FFA advisors; Mr. Allen Gardener, Mr. Robert Boster and Mr. Delbert Petersen. Instruction provides a broad education in production, mechanics and agribusiness.

But vocational agriculture and the FFA are only half of Gary Teixeira's

story. The other half takes place at home where his father and uncles operate Teixeira Farms, Inc. The farm provides every conceivable opportunity for Gary to learn about the business of agriculture.

Santa Maria is located north of Los Angeles and is far enough away from the urban areas to still be called a farm town. Large irrigated acreages produce abundant supplies of garden vegetables. The fertile land with its mild climate can produce two crops from the same land each year.

The Teixeira operation includes 1,200 acres of double-cropped irrigated land. Of all the vegetables they produce, Gary says the broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, seed beans and carrots are their most important cash crops. They also produce celery, lettuce, potatoes, and some flowers.

For Gary to learn about the total farm operation, he must merely check in with each of his uncles, his father and his grandfather Mr. J. C. Teixeira. Norman Teixeira, the oldest of the Teixeira brothers at age 37, is in charge of the sale of the produce, which means arranging the contracts in advance and acting as a broker. He also aids with planting and some of the shop work.

Next in line is Allan Teixeira, age 30. Allan is in charge of fertilizer, insecticide and thinning. He also helps the full time bookkeeper keep the paperwork in order.

Marvin, who is the middle brother at age 28, is in charge of all cultivation and land preparation for the crops. With the double cropping system, this is almost a continuous job and usually takes seven to eight full time men under his direction.

Glenn Teixeira, the 26-year old, oversees the irrigation of the crop land. Along with his seven full time men, Glenn irrigates from 12 wells that average 360 feet and eight reservoirs.

The youngest of the brothers, and the family's FFA American Farmer degree holder, is Dean. The 24-year-old is in charge of 25 men who harvest year round. Dean also helps with the planting of crops.

In addition to the field operations, Gary says the family business has expanded into two related enterprises. The first, Pioneer Supply, is a parts house for machinery, used by local farmers in their production of crops. For example, Pioneer sells tires, disk blades, farm hardware and replacement parts. They even sell boots and clothes for local farmers and their laborers.

The second business is as broker for an area fertilizer wholesaler. In the two years they have had the business, they have become the largest distributor for Swift brand dry fertilizer in the state. From February 1976 to June 1977, the family had moved over 2,500 tons.

To facilitate the expanding operation, Norman Teixeira says the family has just completed a new 80-foot by 40-foot farm shop which is the headquarters for the farm's three full time mechanics. "We construct almost all of the equipment we use here," says Norman. The farm's mechanics have built their own four-wheel drive tractor and plan to build more in the future. They also build produce trailers, pipe trailers, spray rigs, culti-packers, and plank harrows.

Norman says he, like so many other successful farmers, got his first initiation into agricultural mechanics, through his high school vocational agriculture class.

Three-fourths of the farm's produce is sold to processors for chain restaurants such as McDonalds. The other 25 percent is sold as fresh produce. During the peak of each season's harvest, approximately 120 persons are employed as harvesters, irrigators, field hands, tractor drivers and mechanics.

Allan says the development of the family corporation came naturally. "We sat down and looked at who had the most talents in what fields. It just all fit into place. Now because we each have our own responsibilities, it reduces the chances of there being any friction between us."

"You must have made a wrong turn somewhere! This is the Bluedale farm, not the Valley View."

Actually there is little time in a Teixeira day for family disagreements. The typical schedule starts at 5:30 in the morning with breakfast at their mother's. Over coffee the day's business is discussed and if one brother has a problem with his part of the operation the others can offer their help and advice. Here the brothers can consult with the farm's chief advisor, Mr. J. C. Teixeira, who is also their father.

"Our father is the chief man with the stick," says Norman jokingly. "He has veto power over any of the decisions we make, but we usually agree on what is best for the farm. Decisions are made democratically by voting."

One of the major decisions the corporation made recently was to build their own freezer plant. With eleven other farmers they formed a cooperative called Tandem Cooperative. With the capacity to freeze their own vegetables the farmers can assure themselves of an outlet, and also cut out a middleman. Produce is usually contracted from the freezer plant to a processor.

To get an idea of the intensity of the Teixeira farm operation, one has only to look at the inventory of equipment; 14 pickups, 6 tillage tractors, 9 harvest tractors and 5 utility tractors.

Norman Teixeira says today management is the key to farm profit. "Twenty years ago the answer was hard work. Today you can't get by with just hard work, you have to know all phases; soils, crops, fertilizer, bookkeeping, how to sell your produce. Today farming is a business, not just overalls and tractors."

Teixeiras analyze costs for each commodity grown and compare it to the income generated. Changes are made daily, based on what the weekly cost analysis shows. Norman says, "Without management there is no cash flow and without cash flow, there is no business."

In the future Norman says they will try to cut down their risk factor by contracting more crops. Produce, like celery, can cost as much as $2,000 per acre to grow.

When he was asked if he ever prodded his son Gary to seek an FFA office, Norman Teixeira replied. "We didn't pressure him, but we did try to help him set his goals. We don't want to insist he go into agriculture or become a farmer, but with all the activity and excitement there is on this farm, what kid wouldn't want to be a part of it?"

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"How To" List for Better Exhibits

GOOD EXHIBITS are difficult to create. They represent a considerable amount of time and effort.

It seems desirable, therefore, to start early to prepare an exhibit and then use it all year long.

The exhibit could be used to promote your FFA chapter throughout the year, in a store window during FFA WEEK, at the parent-member banquet, in the grade school as a recruitment tool or in the high school to attract membership.

Here are seven tips on how to have a successful exhibit.

1. EFFECTIVE TITLE (short, personal)—The title is the first opportunity to secure the attention of the public. It must be short yet bold enough to secure their interest.

Some states such as Illinois have exhibit contests. Each year a theme is selected around which the displays are to be tailored. In the past many exhibitors have used this same theme for the title of their display. A judge, after seeing a dozen or so exhibits entitled "FFA-Agriculture's New Generation", as in 1977, wants to see something with more originality. Therefore, in selecting a title, exhibitors should choose one which is related to and builds on the theme but is not repetitious.

2. SUITABLE SUBJECT (timely, personal)—The subject selection must tie together the theme and the viewer. Check the local, state and national current events and major issues which effect the future of agriculture. Then those major events which members have some experience with become viable topics for consideration.

3. ATTRACTS ATTENTION (stopping power)—Attention is attracted through appeal to the senses. There are several ways this can be accomplished. Reach out and get their attention with sight—bright colors, moving parts, and special lighting; sound—tape recording; touch—the use of textures such as paper, cloth, wood; and smell—bouquet of flowers. These or unique combinations of the above will add to the attention attracting powers of the display.

4. HOLDS INTEREST (encourages study)—After the exhibit has attracted their attention, it must encourage them

(Continued on Page 66)

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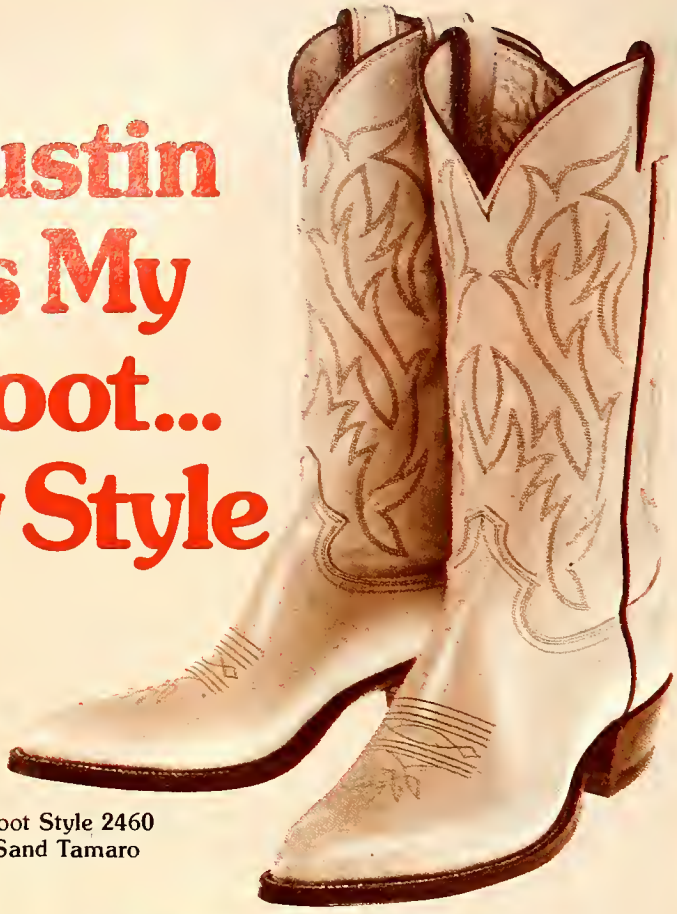

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Better Exhibits

(Continued from Page 65)

to come closer and study the message. This can be achieved by instructing them to "read this poster", "touch this wood", "smell this plant", "watch this slide" or "answer these questions." This objective must be done in such a way that if viewers follow your directions, they will receive your message.

5. CONVEYS MESSAGE (accomplishes purpose)—The message is the primary purpose for the exhibit and must be reflected in all parts of the display. The exhibitor must have in mind exactly the idea or message he wishes to impart and then get it across.

Two major problems which have occurred in past exhibits are: some exhibits seem to have two or more messages which tends to confuse the observer; and the exhibit seems to have no real message, but rather, is something nice to look at.

6. GENERAL APPEARANCE (simple, balanced)—Now is the time the exhibitor must ask himself "Is this display pleasing to the eye? Is the display too large, too small, top heavy, too wide or too low? Do all of the component parts fit together as though they belonged together? Does one side have more material than the other? Is there too much material, therefore causing the display to look cluttered?" Stand back from the display and view it from the public point of view.

7. WORKMANSHIP (neat, construction)—This one seems to be self-explanatory and easy to evaluate, but there are many examples where just a little more time and effort would have made the difference. For example, posters not printed neatly, misspelled words, hastily painted units and uneven lettering. Take the time to do the best job you can. *(By Professor Thomas Stitt, Southern Illinois University)*

"My son and I work hard and manage to keep going, I do the work and he manages to keep going."

A Partnership for Progress

For fifty years the FFA has provided training, leadership and a spirit of cooperation for young men and women interested in agriculture. In those fifty years, American agriculture has changed greatly.

While the number of people actually engaged in farming has dropped, the figures for production, investment and agricultural-related occupations have soared. It has been in this kind of environment that FFA has functioned. Training young people for the new agriculture. Helping others adapt to change.

It has been a partnership in the true sense of the word. Agriculture and the education system working in partnership. Private enterprise and government working in partnership. Experienced teachers and eager students working in partnership. It has been a partnership of progress, not only for agriculture, but for non-farm people who daily partake of the bounty provided by another partnership: our land and the people who farm it.

The FFA partnership is well worth preserving and expanding in the next fifty years.

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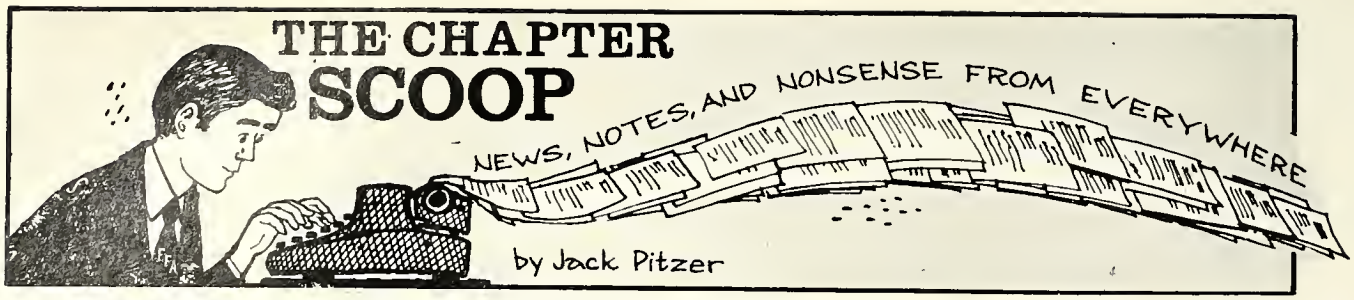


Virginia State Officers presented vespers program aboard the bus enroute to Kansas City.

N-N-N

The three advisors of *Fridley,* Minnesota, broke the record of five people eating three gallons of ice cream. They did it in 17 minutes.

N-N-N

Hot coffee and doughnuts, courtesy of the *Atwood-Hammond,* Illinois, FFA. FFA'ers came at 7 a.m. for two weeks this fall and served farmers waiting in line at two local elevators.

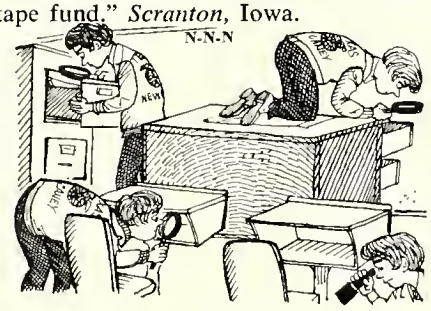
N-N-N

Jim Klasel writes about work project of *Sweeney,* Texas, FFA—building hog and steer pens before their October fair.

N-N-N

"We donated $100 to school's video tape fund," *Scranton,* Iowa.

N-N-N



New Caney, Texas, FFA regrets losing an advisor. Actually Advisor Bennett is going back for more school.

N-N-N

Many chapters getting on the band wagon of preparing to celebrate the FFA Golden Anniversary.

N-N-N

Lots of ways to create FFA Emblem. A large emblem was made of flowers for the Pennsylvania State Convention by floriculture members at *Brownstown* AVTS.

N-N-N

Then a 40 ½-inch diameter cake emblem was created for *Farmington,* Iowa, Chapter banquet. It took two gallons of frosting. With help of Advisors Fett and Cottrell to squeeze the frosting tubes.

N-N-N

West Marshall, Iowa, judges were top team at National Hampshire Meat Hog Conference.

N-N-N

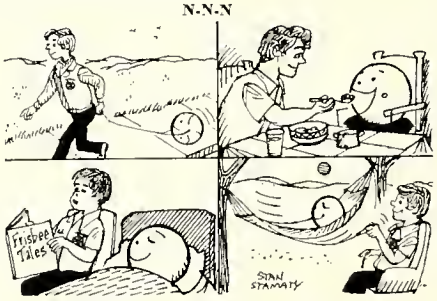
"High activity" members and officers of *East Butler* Junior and Senior FFA in Brainard, Nebraska, joined advisors and retiring officers for an overnight outing to a lake.

N-N-N

Title of *Forest Grove,* Oregon, FFA float at fair was "Old Farmers Never Die, They Just Get Plowed Under."

A father and son both earned their American Farmer degrees under Advisor Weatherby at *Shamrock,* Texas, Dad in '46. Son in '76.

N-N-N



New tradition of *Southwest* Chapter in Washburn, Missouri, is owning your own frisbee.

N-N-N

Big door prize for *Pomeroy,* Washington, FFA carnival was a tape deck.

N-N-N

Guess who was late for 6 a.m. Saturday departure of *Leland,* California, Chapter's woodcutting trip? The poor advisor, who took lots of guff.

N-N-N

Was it the steak supper that attracted the officers of *Straughn,* Alabama, to their officer meeting? Nevertheless, they had a good planning session for their projects after a good meal.

N-N-N

They fed 900 at the *Caledonia,* Michigan, annual chicken barbeque.

N-N-N

"We were happy to get the new shelter house for City Park finished before the July Fourth celebration." *Prairie,* Iowa, Chapter.

N-N-N

Twin Valley South, Ohio, went to Cincinnati Reds game on Farmers Night.

N-N-N

Past National Officer Dick Jones spoke at *Wayland,* New York, banquet.

N-N-N

A wildlife project to increase pheasant population in *Wauseon,* Ohio, FFA area brought 1,040 pheasants to be raised 'til eight weeks. Then hens will be released. Cocks kept until hunting season.

N-N-N

Joel Garrison, *Monroe,* Washington, tried to get his money's worth at this summer's Washington Leadership Conference. He chowed down ten fried chicken legs at a picnic at the FFA Center during his conference.

N-N-N

Kids who won coloring book contest in *Grove City,* Pennsylvania, Food For America project won silver dollars.

The 142 members in *Epworth,* Iowa, live in 15 different zip code areas. Drives the advisors and chapter secretary wild at report and roster time.

N-N-N

There have been 2,002,650 seedlings planted by *Stillwater,* Minnesota, FFA in their area in 18 years.

N-N-N

Twenty entries were in *Pymatuning,* Ohio, garden tractor pull.

N-N-N

Nelda Miles, *Hagerman,* New Mexico, won state's first outstanding reporter award.

N-N-N

Sisters **Laura** and **Leslie Larson** and cousin **Dolly Rosdahl** won the Idaho meats judging contests. They hail from *Vallivue.* They were also top three in the contest in this same order.

N-N-N

When National President **James Bode** spoke at *Paris,* Illinois, banquet they gave him a new lettered T-shirt in memory of the event. Has date and name and state of host chapter.

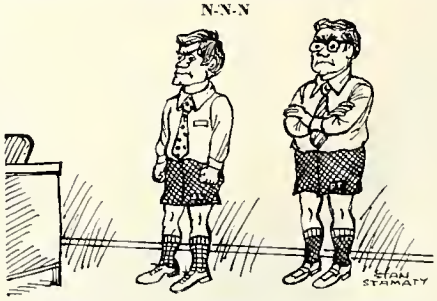
N-N-N

Centre, Alabama, held a field day at school. Students could participate in sack races, nail driving, egg throwing.

N-N-N

David Anthony, *Moss* FFA in Oklahoma, won a ¾ Limousin heifer as top judge at a local ranch field day.

N-N-N



Forest Grove, Oregon, gave each advisor a pair of blue jogging shorts with their initials in corn gold. After being "encouraged" to model the shorts, the advisors developed an urge to give exams.

N-N-N

New officers of *Smyrna,* Delaware, met this summer with their advisor and reviewed parliamentary procedure, planned a program, discussed duties of each officer as well as what the Creed meant to each one.

N-N-N

More chapters should encourage chapter reporters or other leaders to send interesting stories, different ideas, unusual facts, funny incidents to SCOOP.

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Animal Health

(Continued from Page 27)

step further.

In a news release dated August 29, FDA stated that they were proposing to prohibit the routine addition of the antibiotic penicillin to animal feeds. FDA estimates that 35 percent of swine and 10 percent of chickens and turkeys raised for food in the U.S. are fed with feed containing penicillin. The action is being considered because ". . . continuous long-term use of small amounts of penicillin in animal feed presents the risk that bacteria in the animals gradually will develop resistance to the antibiotic." Since the resistance might be transferred to bacteria in people, the effectiveness of penicillin and other antibiotics used in treating people illnesses would be reduced. FDA Commissioner Donald Kennedy has contended that the benefits of using these drugs routinely to promote faster growth and better health in animals does not outweigh the potential risks posed to people.

"That's where he hung himself up," Brunton claims. "Here we are talking about *real* benefits versus *potential* risks. It's difficult to make that comparison. You can pick any drug—any feed additive—that you want to and I can ask you enough questions that would remove it from the market based on potential risk." AHI is not alone in their unhappiness with the action. Many livestock organizations have cried out against this proposal.

As with anything else, all of these issues involve many trade-offs. USDA estimated in 1975 that a ban on antibiotic feed additives similar to the one now proposed would raise retail prices of meat as much as $2.I billion per year. In the feed additive situation, the benefits of using them are largely economic—less cost to provide more meat in shorter time. In other issues involving residues, regulation might mean shortened supplies, hence higher prices. But the overriding issue is one of safety.

"That's where the trade-offs are," said Holt. "There's nobody in the industry that would pretend that we want to foist anything that is 'unsafe' upon the consumer. But there is no such thing as absolute safety, so how far do we go? Somehow, we've got to resolve in the scientific regulatory community the question, 'How safe is safe?' "

What kind of position might a future farmer want to adopt on the product regulation issue? Everyone has a right to his opinion and the expression of it. In the end the policy will be formulated by the government and those people who have valid concerns and take the time to air them to the policy makers (Congress and governmental agencies) will quite possibly have a bearing on the outcome.

"Keep abreast of the issues that involve the products you are using," Holt advised. "As with anything else that affects you, let people know how you feel about these issues."

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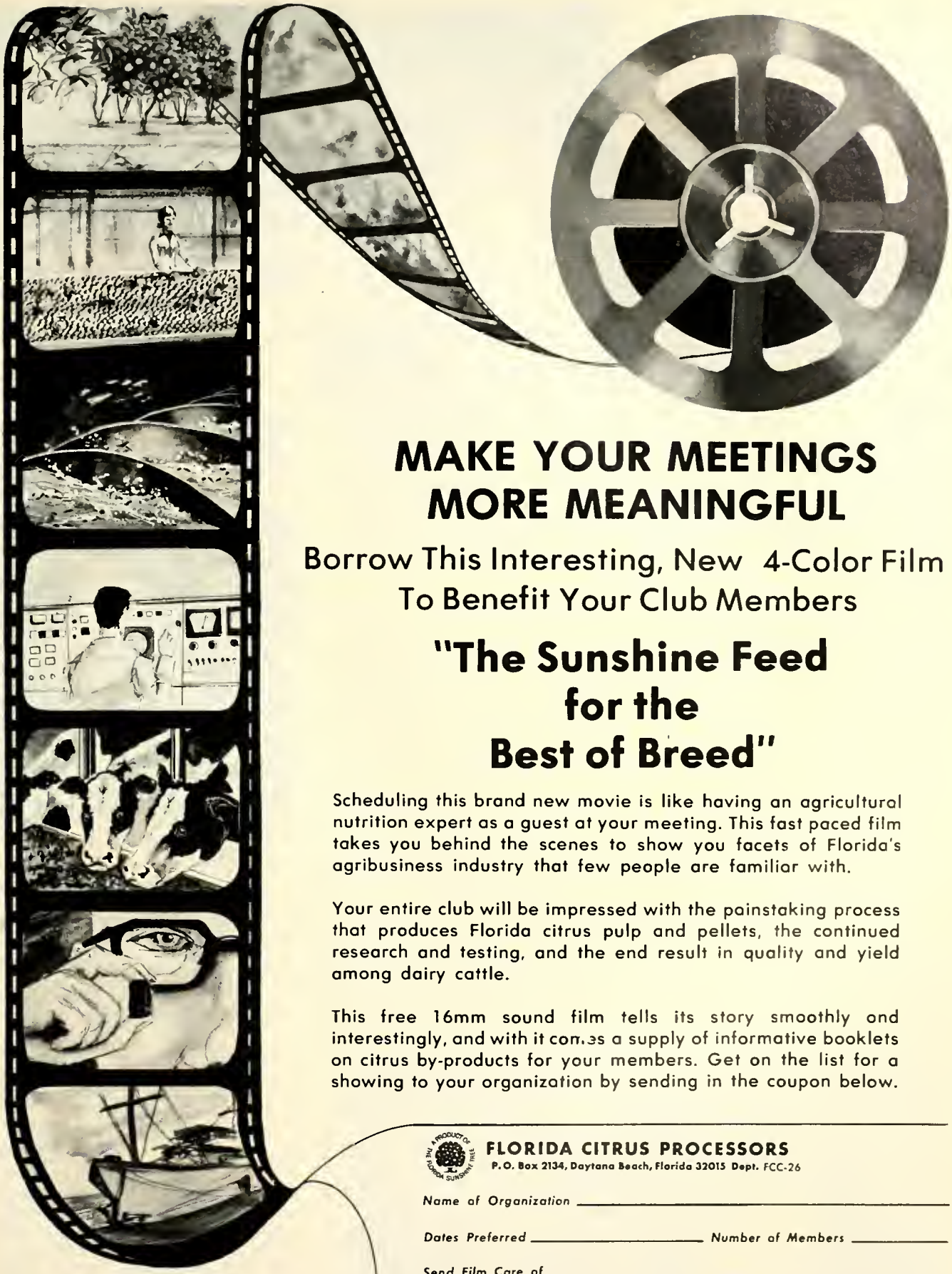

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The Russia We Saw

SHE'S been called the "sleeping giant." Relations with her are a topic of conversation almost every day. We sold billions of dollars worth of our agricultural products to her in the past several years. But we know very little about her government, her people, her strengths or her weaknesses. We stick to our old ideas about her and her people —mostly that we are good and they are bad—and put those ideas in a box on the top shelf, to be reviewed maybe once every five years or so. But what's the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) really like?

Accepting an invitation from the Communist Youth Organization, four of the FFA's National Officers toured Russia for ten days in May. Sam Brownback, Bruce Maloch, Rick McDaniel and Julie Smiley took care of their own expenses on the trip with aid from individual sponsors. They had a chance to see collective farms, factories and many people in the communist country, gaining some insight as to the differences and similarities of it and the U.S.

The officers had an opportunity to see several facets of the Soviet Union—agriculture, industry and home life.

From the agriculture end, the officers found the country to be very labor intensive with more hands and less machinery being put to work. Other fundamental differences were present also.

"I don't think they use their land as efficiently as we do," Rick said, using the example of seeing fields of wheat and rice or forestland right next to one another in very rich soil. He said that they have fertilizer, pesticides and many of the other inputs that we consider basic parts of modern agriculture.

On the livestock side, production and advancement seems to be closely tied to demand, just as it might be in any of the western nations.

"I don't think their breeds are up with ours, but they are filling their needs," Rick said. "They need a lot of fat yet, with their animals, because they like fatter meat and grease and lard, so they've got animals that would be considered old style animals by our standards today."

Rick noted that the Soviets grow a lot of cabbage and cucumbers and onions—simply because that's what they like to eat. The officers found cooked cabbage present at almost every Russian meal, an unfortunate experience for some.

Sam Brownback's guess is that Russian agriculture is around 20 to 25 years behind the United States, if you can really compare the two. "They use half as much fertilizer as we use, to use general figures, and on twice as much cultivated land, they get 80 percent of our production," he said.

"I think that because of the system, their technology will not advance as rapidly as ours," Bruce Maloch, national secretary, related. "In a communistic form of government, everyone has to be employed and as long as they've got that tremendously large labor force to do the work, why have machines do it?" Bruce thinks that they are getting the job done, however. "It's just not as efficient and as fast as we do it from the standpoint of output per man hour."

Again, the realization that it's difficult to compare the USSR's progress by U.S. standards surfaces.

"I think that's the big mistake that a lot of us make when we go to another country. We try to judge their system and their people by our standards and you just can't do that because what is satisfactory and what meets the needs of the people in the United States is not necessarily a set of values that we can compare to their type of situation." Julie Smiley emphasized. She said that for the Soviets there is something about an incentive that is different.

"Maybe they have an incentive on

U.S. vs USSR

A Brief Agricultural Comparison

In a recent report, USDA economists point out that the United States remains well out in front of the Soviet Union when it comes to farm efficiency, crop yields, and livestock productivity.

The last comparison covers 1971-75—the years spanning the USSR's ninth five-year plan. A major change toward closing the gap is the Soviet use of mineral fertilizers, which now stands at 87 percent of the U.S. level. But since the USSR has 45 percent more cultivated cropland, the comparison becomes far less favorable on a per-acre basis.

The Soviets use far more land and eight to nine times more labor and still come up with a total farm output worth about 20 percent less than the U.S. figure.

Also, U.S. farmers grow over a fourth more grain, using 55 percent as much land. Main reason: high yielding corn accounts for 60 percent of the grain grown in the United States, while relatively low-yielding wheat makes up nearly half the Soviet harvest.

their own that I don't understand, but they don't seem to have the same type of work ethic—that perfectionist value or attitude that we have in this country." She went on to relate noticing unevenly laid bricks and other undesirable building features when staying in a relatively "new" Russian hotel. They were growing so fast in the area that the hotel was needed quickly, which may explain the workmanship that Julie indicated was "very poor" by American standards.

"What I'm saying is how can you judge? How can you tell? You have to go and be part of them before you can understand. And for just the ten days we were there, I guess we really didn't understand a great deal." Julie admitted.

Politics and delegation of power takes an extremely different form in Russian than in this country and the officers attempted to learn more about their system of government from several different sources.

"I just happened to talk to this one guy on the plane," Brownback remembered. "He spoke English and was a member of the Communist Party. He said he saw it as three powers . . . there was the Communist party—naturally number one—then the trade unions, which I don't really understand and the Young Communist League (YCL) which is the strong indoctrination unit in the country." The officers found that indoctrination, or propaganda as the Soviets call it, doesn't have a negative connotation over there as it may have in the U.S.

"At first, we thought the YCL was just an organization like the Young Democrats or Young Republicans in this country, but it's not that way at all," said McDaniel. "It's *the* organization. If you are going to get any place, you have to be a member of the YCL. There are 30 million in the organization and they're the top young people. The YCL, in essence, determines where everyone else in that age group works." (The age group is about 20 to 30 years.)

The Young Pioneers is another group of young people in the Soviet Union, younger yet than the YCL.

"Young Pioneers appears to be the preparation for the Young Communist League, which, in turn, is preparation for the Communist Party," Bruce explained. "We saw some youngsters that were being inducted into the Young Pioneers. They had to all come in to Moscow to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. That's where they took their oath."

In the USSR, some people have to make a decision eventually whether or not to join the Communist Party. It is likely to make a big difference in annaul earnings, whether or not you travel very much and where you live. Deemer, a young man who served as interpreter for the National Officers, is one who has yet to make a decision. By education and experience, he's a journalist, which clouds an already complicated issue.

"He's a young man that is very intelligent—really has it all together is how we would term him over here and yet he has to make a big decision as to whether he's going to join the party or not," said Smiley. "He knows that if he doesn't join it, he's not really going to move up in the journalism world as he would like to. If he does join it, he will have a job and maybe he'll get to travel, but they'll also stifle him and he

(Continued on Page 78)

His Kansan hosts listening attentively, Nikolai Poludenni talks of Russia.

Russians in the U. S.

Four young agriculturalists from the Soviet Union viewed farming and agribusiness in the United States in July through cooperation between the FFA and the Russian Committee of Youth Organizations (CYO). The tour was the other half of an exchange that saw four National FFA Officers visiting the Soviet Union in May.

FFA International intern Jeffrey Tennant and an interpreter accompanied the Soviets on the ten-day trip that included overnight visits to farm families in Kansas, and calls upon research farms and ag-related companies in both Kansas and Ohio. Rick McDaniel, Eastern Region Vice-President, also travelled with them for part of the activities. Expenses for the visitors were borne by FFA Chapters in Ohio and Kansas, as well as the U.S. State Department. Agra Steel Corporation of Kansas City assisted by supplying private jet transportation to the group.

Lennie Gamage, FFA International Program Specialist, was able to talk with the Soviets in "some detail" before their return to the USSR. He said they were "very pleased with the program."

"They were able to see a lot in a short period of time, and enjoyed the farm visits. They also commented that their American hosts were very friendly and hospitable."

Gamage said that proposals for further cooperative exchange efforts are being studied, although the extent of those programs is not known at this time.

East meets West. Rivkad Tuchvatullin, at right, learns about American farms.

Russia

(Continued from Page 77)

won't be able to always write exactly what he wants to write. He's caught between a rock and a hard place and I think he understands that and I think it kind of disappoints him at times."

But most of the everyday-type people the officers met were friendly and happy with their life in the USSR.

"People were extremely friendly and fun-loving out in the country. They seemed to have an old-fashioned trust. This one guy just took us right into his backyard. We were just wandering around and he said, 'Yeh, come on in, have some strawberries,'" Brownback said.

"They seemed to be very hospitable in a very low-key, low-profile sort of way," McDaniel added. "Sometimes I think we need more of that."

The Russians seemed to be a healthy and hard-working group of people on the average. A reason for their health probably has something to do with the fact that "the average person doesn't even think of owning a car over there," according to McDaniel.

The officers also indicated that pride was a very present emotion. Upon leaving his rather humble dwelling, the officers were told to "tell Mr. Carter that we live very well in the Soviet Union, too" by the man who had shared his strawberries.

As with any experience of this magnitude, the Russian trip had an impact on each of the National Officers.

"I'm very happy to be an American," said Brownback, attempting to draw some conclusions about the trip. "You never realize what you have until you're in somebody else's shoes . . . I saw injustices there and I see injustices here, but here I can go ahead along the lines that I want to without being involved in the political system or in government. Over there I wouldn't be able to."

McDaniels feels that "most Americans don't realize how fortunate they are to live in the United States of America. We don't appreciate it and aren't as dedicated to it as much as we should be."

"I couldn't see any incentive. Even with our own organization (the FFA) over here we provide incentive awards for members to participate in contests so that they can learn," said Bruce. "In many of the jobs that people have in the USSR, there seemed to be no chance for growth or advancement within the system unless they were one of that small percentage that were members of the Communist Party."

"I think that's where the key to future progress in America is . . . to keep that individual type of drive and motivation," Sam agreed.

Although he disagreed with their form of government, he found that his attitude toward the individual in the Soviet Union had changed since the tour. "You realize that they're people, too."

"It's apples and oranges, two different kinds of living, two different kinds of government, people that look just about the same, maybe have the same basic needs and basic human values, but I guess that's about all you can compare," said Smiley. "You just have to be thankful for what you have."

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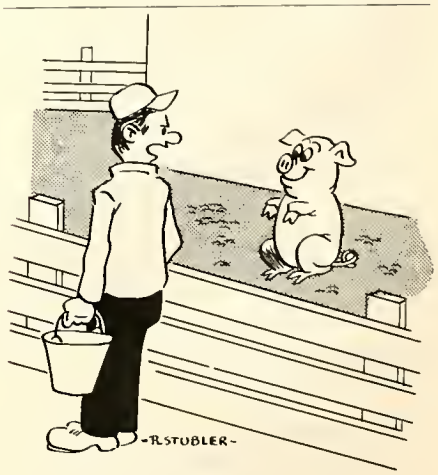

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State Presidents' Conference

THE President of the United States walked across the porch and down the steps to the microphone. The 80 state FFA officers gathered in the White House Rose Garden listened intently as he began to speak of his experiences as member and secretary of the Plains FFA Chapter.

"I began to learn about organizational structure and I began to learn about competition," said the President. "I began to learn how to make a speech. I began to learn how to work with other people. I also learned the value of agriculture, farm families, stability, commitment, idealism, hope, truth, hard work and patriotism from the FFA." (A total account of the President's remarks can be found on page 43.)

It was a fitting highlight for Thursday morning of the State Presidents' Conference held in Washington, D.C. in July. The FFA conference is sponsored by General Motors Corporation through the National FFA Foundation. It's designed to stimulate improvement of leadership abilities in the new state officers from across the country, similar to the way Jimmy Carter says the FFA helped him 36 years ago.

But the President-to-be didn't have near the opportunity or learning resources that were present in the busy week for the Washington Conference group.

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland: "Tomorrow . . . an exciting frontier."

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland delegated about two hours of one of his busy days to answer questions and shake hands with the state leaders.

"Tomorrow must be looked upon as a new frontier, with a whole new set of problems," Bergland said, "And the answers are only to be found if we have the capacity to change." Bergland told the officers that "for those who have the courage and the vision to accept those awesome responsibilities tomorrow will be an exciting day. I know you've made your choice, because I know who you are. You accept tomorrow for what it is—that exciting frontier."

Bergland spoke about grain reserves, weather probability and forthcoming agricultural policy, emphasizing that U.S. agricultural issues affect people worldwide. "Programs which affect the U.S. must be considered in a global context," he said, citing the growing world dependence on America for food.

In their conference week in the nation's capital, the group had an opportunity to listen to many good speakers. Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana spoke to the group early in the week and a panel discussion was held with USDA officials. They talked over such issues as agricultural regulation, the world food outlook and agricultural legislation. Several state vocational education leaders were present for an evening program discussing "New Directions For Vocational Education in Agriculture."

Most officers had the opportunity to visit their Congressmen twice during the week. Once during an individual office visit on Capitol Hill, and later in the week over eggs and toast at the Congressional Breakfast. The breakfast was attended by over 100 Congressmen and Senators with many more represented by staff members.

During the week the state officers also visited the National FFA Center located south of Alexandria, Virginia. They heard members of the FFA Organization staff tell about FFA award programs, services and publications and had an opportunity to visit informally throughout the week with National FFA Officers and those national staff members.

Plenty of recreation was sprinkled throughout the week in many different forms. Volleyball, swimming, sightseeing and a trip to the Kennedy Center for the opera "Porgy and Bess" were added in to help keep both mind and body fit.

FFA leaders make the news. A local reporter talks with two officers at USDA.

FFA in Action

Rocky Road

Douglas, Wyoming, FFA members caught fish weighing up to 10½ pounds during a recent fishing trip to Canada.

The trip was a one-week stay at Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, which is located about 300 miles north of Lac LaRonge, or 150 miles south of the Northwest Territories.

The group used a school bus on the 2,500 mile trip and reported the last 300 miles of the trip was over a rock road which "makes Highway 59 seem like a super highway." Speeds were limited to 25-35 mph for the last 300 miles.

This Canadian lake used to be a "fly in" lake for fishermen, but in recent years a road has been constructed. The group stayed at the D & D Camp which has been in operation for only two years, being constructed after the road was opened.

Making the trip were FFA Advisor William Stewart, Pete Henson, Otto Bryson, Kelly Stewart, Sam Henson, Max Page, Curt Knighten, Mike Leeling, Greg Jackson, Shawn Daly, George Cross and Jim Middleton.

Shawn Daly caught the largest fish, a 10½ pound Northern Pike, while other members reeled in several 10-pounders and a lot of four to eight pounders.

Their luck could have been better they found out, for a 30 and a 20 pounder were taken in the same spot only an hour before the group arrived.

Camping equipment was taken along and used on the trip. While at the lake, they rented cabins at the campground and hired boats, motors and a fishing guide.

Total cost of the trip per person (including fishing license) was $123.

They found the days unusually long because darkness comes at 11:30 p.m. and it gets light again at about 3:30 a.m. in those latitudes.

They reported the country to be flat to rolling hills and is either water, or pine, birch and other timber. The ground is tundra with perma-frost about 1½ feet below the surface.

Fishing is done from boats and lures are cast toward the weed beds and islands. The lure most used is a three-inch red and white spoon with a steel leader and 12-pound test line. Pliers are used to remove the hooks because the teeth of a Northern Pike are up to one-fourth to one-half inch long and many scratches and cuts are suffered handling these fish.

The fishermen also reported rain gear was a must because it rained every day while on the lake.

The trip took about 28 hours and was made without stopping except for gasoline. The last 250 miles took eight hours. Gasoline prices at the end of the road was $1.35 per gallon.

Gallery Art

The Twin Valley South FFA in West Alexandria, Ohio, recently established a Hall of Fame for American Farmers, State Farmers and State Officers.

Work for the display was done by members Jeff Krickenbarger and Mark Phelps.

The board holds three American Farmers who are Robert Skiles, Gene Tapalman and Fred Voge. It also holds 15 State Farmers who are Robert Skiles, Edgar Blankenship, Ron Friend, Fred Voge, Dwaine Friend, Gene Tapalman, Tom Leedy, Duane Grimme, Ted Guthrie, Tom McKee, Mike Besecker, Terry Holman, Tim Krickenbarger, Roger Voge and Lynn Yost. Two state officers who are Gene Tapalman and Ron Friend, who held the offices of sectional vice president and president, are also on the board.

He Paid Off

Since his first year of teaching, Advisor Karl Polson, has promised his parliamentary procedure team a steak dinner if the team placed first. Mr. Polson, during his teaching career has served as advisor at White Mountains Regional High School, Whitefield, New Hampshire, for seven years and is currently completing his third year at Coe-Brown Academy, Northwood, New Hampshire.

Competition among New Hampshire parliamentary procedure teams is great and Mr. Polson has coached several second and third place teams. This year his efforts paid off when the Coe-Brown Academy team captured the first place trophy.

He treated the winners to a steak and seafood dinner at a local restaurant. It is interesting to note that White Mountains Regional High School parliamentary procedure team took second place in this year's contest! *(Arthur Thurber, Junior Reporter)*

"It was due last week, but it slipped my mind . . ."

Night Around the Table

The Morrisville Collegiate Chapter at the Ag and Technical College in Morrisville, New York, sponsored an unusual training night for a group of area high school students. The entire program was centered around the importance of being able to adapt to college life.

Being a collegiate chapter, the members felt that they could relate some of their personal views and experiences dealing with college life to those high school students considering college.

The chapter felt a student considering college could find all the information concerning courses in a handbook or by talking with a counselor or advisor, but seldom would a handbook, counselor or advisor tell a student what to expect from a college as a place to live as well as a place to learn.

A panel of seven members was set up at a head table to answer any questions the audience felt like asking. Some of the questions asked related to living with a roommate that you've never seen before and will, most likely, never see again. Other students wanted to know where they could go to find help with a personal problem or a problem related to school work. Still others wanted to know what a college had to offer as far as entertainment was concerned. The panel also discussed some of their own experiences that they encountered in their first few days of college life. The panel was very open and responsive to all the questions asked.

The seven panel members were Bill Hardenbrook from Kendall, Sue Edwards from Ischua, Wilson Tharpe from

(Continued on Page 84)

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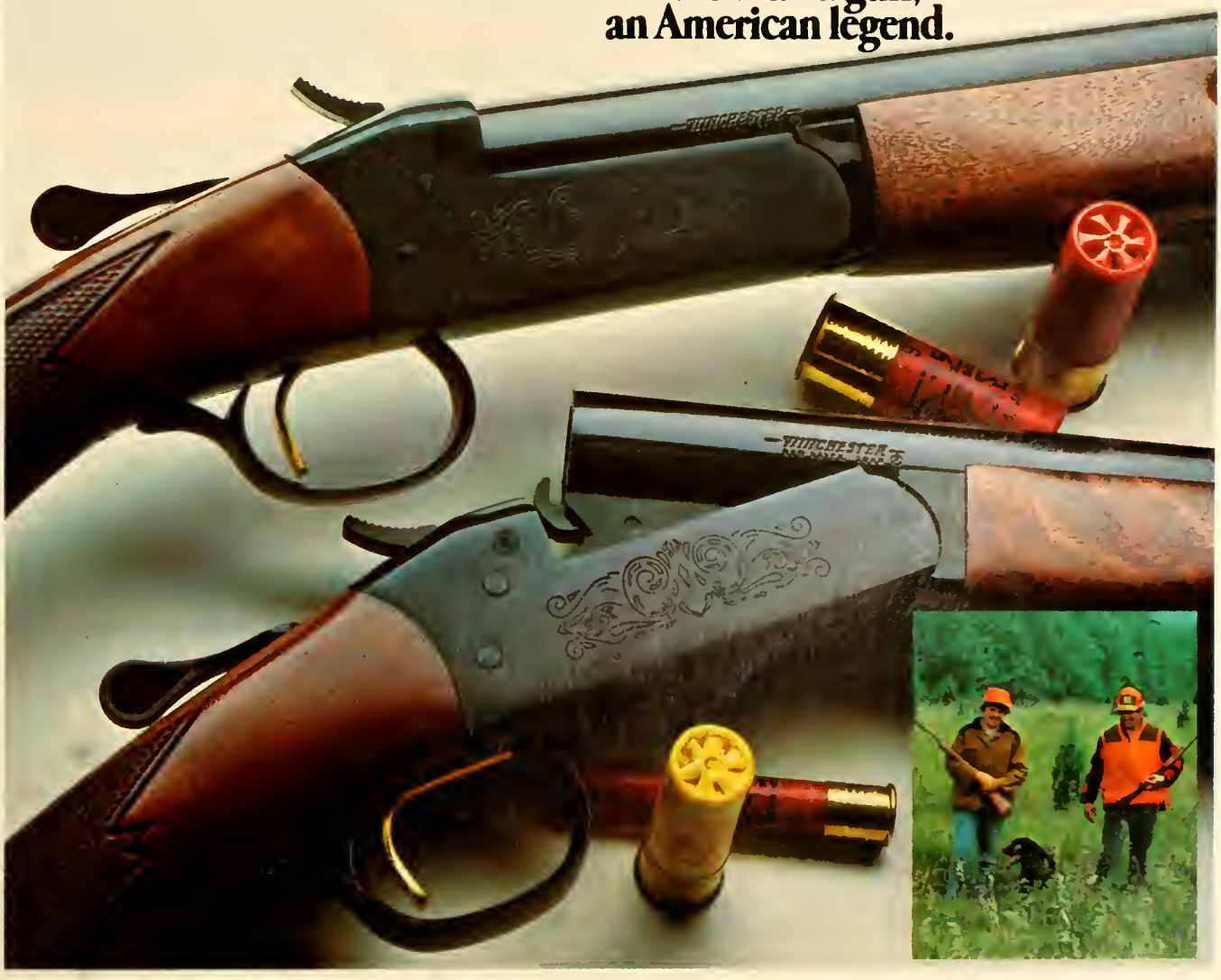

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 82)

Pylesville, Maryland, Neil Lamb from Hamilton, Rudy Bruan from Cazenovia, Kirk Smith from Stockbridge Valley, and Daniel Branigan from Delhi. This panel also entertained questions dealing with different college courses as each panel member was from a different ag division.

When asked how much value did the session hold, the high school students thought it was well worth their time. The collegiate chapter at Morrisville feels that this is another of the valuable services a collegiate chapter can provide. *(Daniel Branigan, Morrisville Collegiate FFA Reporter)*

Working All Week

The Hardin-Central, Missouri, Chapter had a most active National FFA WEEK. Sunday the chapter attended the Hardin Baptist Church.

Throughout the week the high school was decorated with posters made by the members. Bulletin boards were centered around photos of members and their activities and spot radio announcements were made by members.

Field trips were made by the freshmen and farm management classes to see supervised occupational experience projects. On two separate occasions the members wore their official dress, one day was set aside as "Farm Day," and for the first time some of the members drove their tractors to school.

On Tuesday, Celeste Brinkmann, our state FFA vice president, gave a speech during the FFA school assembly. The other members participated during the assembly and showed livestock on stage as well as farm mechanics. To end the week, the chapter went bowling and brought dates.

"Well, I was hoping to be a surgeon until I fainted while dissecting a frog."

Two In One

For the first time in the history of the South Dakota FFA, two state officers have been elected from the same chapter in the same year.

They are Loren Wieting, state FFA vice president and Larry Rahm, state sentinel from the Doland Chapter.

Other South Dakota officers are Le-Ann Simon, reporter, Gettysburg; Craig Dybedahl, president, Dell Rapids; La-Ron DeBoer, secretary, Lennox; Gene Stapleton, treasurer, Parker.

Top left is Larry Rahm, bottom left is Loren Wieting, both of Doland FFA.

Winter Winners

The first annual State FFA Winter Carnival was held January 28-30 in New Hampshire.

The number of people attending was limited due to the cold weather, but still around 90 people participated. The members were cold but enthusiastic. In the ice fishing competition the most fish were caught by Don Sealy of Coe-Brown Academy. The smallest fish was caught by Brian Rice of Fall Mt. Chapter. In the snowshoeing 100-yard events, Mike Oullette was first, Mike Smith, White Mt. Regional, was second and Tim Severence, Alvirne, was third.

Winners in snowshoeing in an intermediate run were Loren Blair, Alvirne, first; Gaylon Spinney, Pinkerton Academy, second and Randy Cicchette, Coe-Brown Academy, third.

In the long distance race, Loren Blair, Alvirne, was first, Leon Jock, Coe-Brown Academy, second and Gaylon Spinney, Pinkerton Academy, third.

In a snowmobiling obstacle course, Dean Davis, White Mt. Regional, took top honors.

Overall placings of schools were: first, Alvirne; second, Coe-Brown Academy; third, Pinkerton Academy; fourth, White Mt. Regional; fifth, Fall Mt. Regional; sixth, Colebrook Academy; Seventh, Winnisquam Regional, Seventh, Pembroke Academy.

(Continued on Page 88)

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 84)

Fun Fish Story

The annual Santa Ynez, California, fishing trip into the Sierras provides members two great experiences: the feeling of being one with nature and a chance to work and play in fellowship with good friends.

The fishing trip has many great aspects to it including driving to get there. The bright eyed and hard working students meet at the high school at 6 a.m. to pack the supplies for the trip. It takes many hard hours of driving to reach the Granite Creek campground which is approximately a 100-square yard patch of weeds, grass and sweet smelling pine.

The big projects of the week—the camp kitchen, cutting firewood and setting up the camp—are all accomplished right after arrival at the campground. Work of this kind usually becomes play as members who go on the trip are all the best of friends. After the work of setting up camp is finished, the group eats and heads for bed.

The bright sun awakens everyone with a natural freezing cold morning in the California Sierras. The first person to arise in the morning is delegated to fix the coffee and start the campfire. When the fire is going, the group arises and tries to get warm. When hands and feet are warm, Mr. Wilkins, the advisor, finishes cooking breakfast and then it is time to chow down. After breakfast, cleanup is handled by the various classes of students taking turns with freshmen at the top of the list.

Some days the crew fish on Granite Creek itself instead of leaving camp. The largest fish caught on any of our FFA fishing trips was an 18-inch brown trout caught by Gary Smithson. Almost every year, the fishing contest is won by Mr. Wilkins for the largest fish caught. If the pot were won for the most fish caught, Mr. Wilkins would be awarded first prize every year.

Upon our returning to camp, Mr. Wilkins cooks dinner as the rest of the group cleans the daily catch. After dinner the sophomore class cleans the pots and pans, while the other classes wash the knives, forks and spoons. When the cleanup is finished, the group entertains itself far into the night with arm wrestling, guitar playing or cards.

The trip lasts five days, but it always seems too short. The last day of camp everything gets packed up to depart. But no one is happy to leave. *(Harmon Kaslow, Reporter)*

(Continued)

Congratulations Future Farmers of America

Although the sun is setting on fifty years of service to youth, the FFA is already looking to new horizons and challenges for the future.

The same is true for the American Quarter Horse Association. In 1974, the AQHA reached a major milestone in its history by registering its one-millionth horse. Now, only three years later, over 250,000 American Quarter Horses have been added to the registry.

Certainly the success of AQHA is due largely to the involvement of its youth members. Established in 1970, the American Junior Quarter Horse Association is now the largest youth group of its kind. Many FFA members enjoy the benefits of horse ownership and prestigious honors available through the AQHA Youth Activities program. Interested? Further information on the American Quarter Horse and the AQHA Youth Activities program is available by contacting:

The American Quarter Horse Association
Department 75
Amarillo, Texas 79168

The FFA and the American Quarter Horse Association . . .
Looking for new horizons to conquer.

Baby Tractors

The first annual North Dakota State micro-mini tractor pull was held in Rugby in March. The event was sponsored by the Rugby FFA Chapter. Along with sponsoring the tractor pull, 32 members of the chapter were involved in judging and actually pulling in the event.

The local chapter organized this first annual state championship event and practiced managing the evening program with a local pull earlier this year. Chapter members were successful in gaining national sanction for the state meet and in promoting it across the state. The idea was taken from a similar event at Farmfest '76.

About 600 spectators crammed into the junior high gymnasium and 21 entrants participated from the U.S. and Canada.

The sport features 1/16 scale tractors powered by tiny model airplane motors. The miniature units are capable of pulling up to 10 times their weight and must remain stock in appearance right down to steering wheels and seats.

The use of shaved rear rubber tires is permitted for extra traction. Contestants hook running units to a weight transfer sled on a 16-foot plywood track. The nudging of the front end of the tractor is permitted to keep it on the track.

The event was dominated by Norman Muzzy of Ames, Iowa, who ran away with all trophies. First place trophies and cash awards of $30, $20 and $10 for top three places were awarded. Prize money came from the North Dakota Implement Dealers Association and Chamber of Commerce. Trophies were supplied by five Rugby implement dealers.

In the 5-pound weight class the tractor owned by Rugby FFA Chapter and operated by Dale Schmaltz and Steve Mundahl placed fourth, pulling 33 pounds 10 feet 7¾ inches.

In the 4-pound class pulling 38 pounds were Rugby FFA Chapter, 8 feet ⅞ inches and Byron Mygland, 5 feet 2 inches. A team composed of Byron Strand and Arlan Buckmeier pulled 7 feet 4 inches.

The 5-pound participants pulling 38 pounds were Rugby FFA Chapter, pulling 13 feet 6½ inches, Byron Mygland, 8 feet 4½ inches. Strand and Buckmeier, 9 feet 1¼ inches. Allan Buckmeier pulled 5 feet and 11 inches and Glen Jundt pulled 15 feet and 4¼ inches.

In the 6-pound class the chapter pulled 60 pounds a distance of 12 feet 10⅛ inches which was good for fifth place. Byron Mygland pulled 9 feet 1 inch. Glen Jundt went 9 feet 11 inches.

Numerous efforts were put forth by many members to set up and run the event. Official judges and co-chairmen were Dave Teigen and Mike Heilman of the FFA chapter.

Large crowds came to the micro-mini tractor pull organized and sponsored by the Rugby, North Dakota, FFA Chapter. Pullers came from all over the United States and even Canada for this nationally sanctioned event. In order to prepare to do an efficient job of operating the competition, the chapter had a practice.

Photo by Mark Carlson

Scholarships For A Week

Twin Valley South, Ohio, FFA sent 16 members to FFA Camp Muskingum from June 27 through July 2, 1977.

All members going were sponsored by a business, organization, or people who feel that camp is worthwhile and donated $30 toward their scholarship.

While at camp, members went to classes for hunting and camping. Fourth year members took a camping trip down the lake, slept in tents and cooked over an open fire. While not in class, members swam, played tennis, volleyball, softball and other sports.

When they arrived at camp they were divided into different sections. At the end of the week each section chose a member and entered him/her in the watermelon contest. In this contest, they greased a watermelon and threw it in the water and whoever brought it ashore, their chapter had fun eating it.

Those going were: Jeff Krickenbarger sponsored by Kiwanis Club, Chris Craft sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Erbaugh, John Davis sponsored by Lion's Club, Nickie Napier sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bronson, Stephanie Holman sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. William Lange, Scott Hardesty sponsored by *Twin Valley News*, Scott Bixler sponsored by Emerson Voge, Jim Robbins sponsored by Steinke Tractor Sales, Chris Day sponsored by Eaton Loan and Home Aid, Scott Bellar sponsored by Holtzmuller Tractor Sales, Mickey Wysong sponsored by Ward Brubaker, Curtis Koons sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. John Utsinger, Robin Eby sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Campbell, Mike Hamilton sponsored by Lewisburg D.A.V., Rita Holman sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lanthrope, Tina Van Oss sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Del Siney. Mr. Keith Rogers and Mr. Larry Ramsey, advisors, also attended. *(Mark Phelps, Reporter)*

Water Cleaners

Members of the Phillipsburg, New Jersey, FFA have taken on a new project. They have joined forces with the Delaware River Basin Commission and together they will seek out water pollutants and contaminants in many small tributaries throughout New Jersey.

Concentrating mostly on local streams and creeks the chapter members will gather water samples during storms. They have specially prepared bottles with which at the moment or even moments before a storm comes up they race to their specific locations and scoop up water at different intervals during the storm. The samples are then picked up by chemists who take them back to the laboratory and analyze them. *(Bill Hoser, Chapter Reporter)*

(Continued on Next Page)

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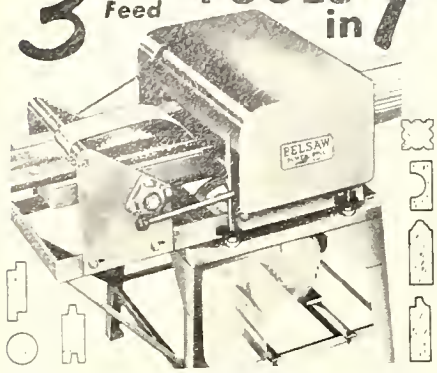

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FFA in Action

(Continued)

Helping The Hands That Help

The Bertha-Hewitt, Minnesota, FFA Alumni sponsored a Farm Safety Program for the Bertha Fire Department in June. The purpose of the program was to give the local firemen and ambulance crew practical "hands on" experiences. The participants were given the opportunity to operate different types of farm machinery including corn picker, field chopper, tractors, swather, spreader and self-unloading chopper box. In addition, other farm equipment that was available at the Wayne Voge farm west of Bertha, was a manure pit system and silo unloader.

Since many fire and emergency calls involve farm families and farm related equipment, the alumni felt that these emergencies require knowledge of modern farm equipment. Twenty-five firemen and alumni took part in the program. Lunch followed the presentations and was served by the wives of the alumni.

As a result of this safety program, the local fire and ambulance personnel should be even better prepared to serve our community. The alumni also presented the fire department and ambulance crew with some needed equipment—a large bolt cutter and two large pipe wrenches. (From *The Bertha-Herald.*)

Letters By The Truckload

The Tonkawa, Oklahoma, Future Farmers became interested in the activities inspired by the Oklahoma Wheat Growers recently.

The wheat growers were trying to fill the bed of a pickup with letters to Congressmen, the President and Cabinet members to tell of the plight of the wheat farmer. With wheat selling at $2 per bushel and the cost of production at close to $3 per bushel, the farmers were being caught in the middle and many were being forced out of business.

The chapter officers composed a letter with the help of their instructor Mr. Mike Schmidt and the members helped them address over 500 letters.

The wheat growers goal was reached when over 60,000 letters were delivered to Washington, D.C. The pickup full of letters was escorted by a caravan of farmers to help hand deliver the letters.

As the caravan left Tonkawa, the FFA members wished them well with good luck banners and one sign that said, "You can't eat peanut butter without wheat."

Members also helped set up a display that compared the cost of tractors of 1950 and 1977 and the price of wheat both years as an example of how production costs have soared. *(Charles Wheeler, Chapter Vice President)*

"We can't collect. It says right here, 'this policy void if one falls off the left side of a parked tractor and busts a right foot on the second Tuesday after a full moon . . .!' "

Shown with National Polled Hereford Queen is the Owasso, Oklahoma, team that won FFA judging at the breed's show and forum. From left, are Lillie Litley, then Mike McQuary, Brady McCullough, Steve Mowery and John Cook.

Convention Coverage

Reports are in that the forty-eighth Annual State FFA Convention of Louisiana in Baton Rouge was one of the most successful conventions ever.

Eighty percent of Louisiana's 260 FFA chapters were present for the seating of official delegates at the first session.

Bruce Maloch, national FFA secretary from Emerson, Arkansas, represented the National FFA Organization.

Guests to the convention included Secretary of State Paul Hardy; Commissioner of Administration Charles

(Continued on Page 93)

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 90)

Roemer, II; State Superintendent of Education J. Kelly Nix (who was presented an official FFA cap and Honorary State Farmer degree); and president of the NVATA, Dr. Richard Weber, from South Lafourche, Louisiana.

The ten state FFA officers, the national FFA secretary, and many FFA members visited the state Senate and House of Representatives and were recognized by both houses of the legislature. They received an autographed picture from Governor Edwin Edwards and were made colonels on the governor's staff.

There were 280 State Farmer degree recipients. Star State Farmer for 1977 is Ellery Givens of Mt. Hermon and Star State Agribusinessman is Malcolm Borden of Oak Grove.

The newly elected state officer team.

State President Angelo Piazza, III, wrapped up his term of office with installation of the new president and his new officer team. The new officers of the association are: Ricky Andreas, president; Bill Longoria, Area I vice president; Mark Smith, Area II vice president; David Schneider, Area III vice president; Steve Peirce, Area IV vice president; Jamie E. Magee, secretary; Mike Turner, treasurer; Lisa Conly, reporter; William Nash, sentinel; and Randall Johnson, parliamentarian. *(David Fusilier, '76-'77 State Secretary)*

A Look From Up High

An all-day flight over California's upper San Joaquin and lower Sacramento Valleys was the reward for 30 San Joaquin, Sacramento, Calaveras and Placerville County FFA members in April as guests of the Stockton, California, Production Credit Association.

The 30 FFA'ers were chosen by a screening committee as having the greatest potential in agriculture.

Prior to the flight, the students, their parents, PCA staff, directors and advisory board members were honored at an awards breakfast held at the Stockton Metropolitan Airport.

Earl Homan and Bruce Gehm put up the new FFA welcome sign greeting people who come into Coldwater, Ohio.

Each received from the Stockton PCA a "Potential Future Farmer" award for demonstrating, in the opinion of the selection committee, the ability to achieve in production agriculture.

It was the sixth such flight in a row sponsored by PCA and the purpose of the trip is to provide a look at the various segments of agriculture in an area often called one of the most productive in the nation.

Irv Muller, Roberts Island farmer and himself a pilot, provided a running commentary during the trip dealing primarily with the soil types, crop varieties and a "bird's eye" view of the water projects in the valley.

The committee to select the National winner of the 1977 Citation for BOAC met recently at the nation's Capitol. The judging committee was hosted there by Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana. Committee members were, from the left, Bruce Maloch, National Secretary; Richard Ristine, Lilly Endowment; Reuben Johnson, National Farmers Union; Charles Buzzell, USOE; Allen Paul, Ag Council of America; Senator Lugar; Gordon Cavanaugh, FmHA; Jon Greeneisen, Farm Credit Association, Howard Matthews, Office of U.S. Commissioner of Education. Ted Amick of the FFA staff and James Patrick of FmHA assisted with the committee work.

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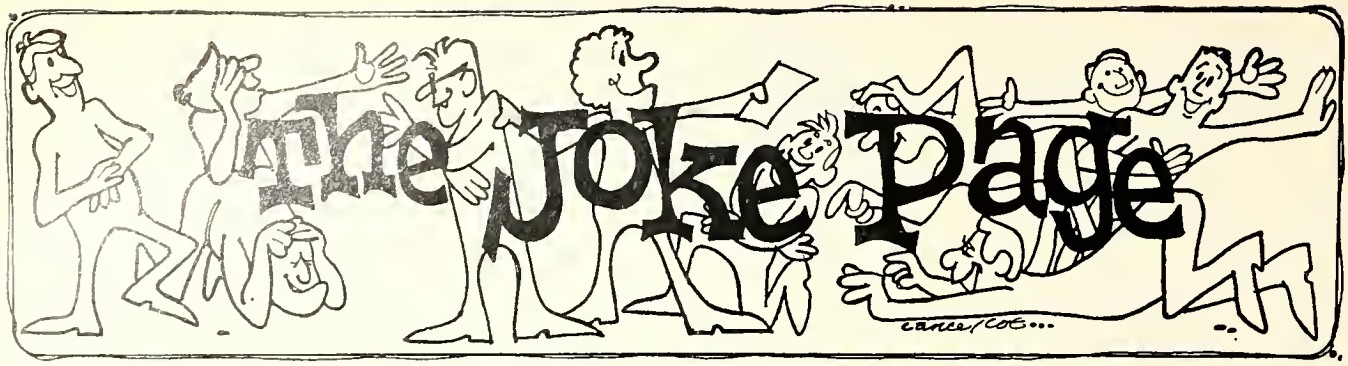


Hobo: *"What are you drinking?"*
Second Hobo: *"Windex."*
Hobo: *"Windex! What for?"*
Second Hobo: *"It keeps me from streaking."*

Zana Johnson
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Q: Where is the best place to put a bathroom scale?
A: In front of the refrigerator.

George Wright
Desoto, Georgia

"The people are very annoying," complained the tenant. *"Last night they stomped and banged on the floor until midnight."*

"Did they wake you?" asked the landlord.

"No," explained the tenant. *"Luckily I was playing my tuba."*

Mark Ericson
Galva, Illinois

Judy: *Did father promise you something for mowing the lawn?"*
Joe: *"No, only if I didn't."*

Warburg Lee
Williamsburg, Kansas

Father: *"I broke my son's habit of biting his nails."*
Friend: *"You did, how?"*
Father: *"I knocked his teeth out."*

Lee Bock
Raymondville, Missouri

Prison Warden: *"I've been in charge of this prison for ten years. Let's celebrate. What kind of party do you suggest we have?"*
Prisoners: *"Open house!"*

Jimmie Kolodziej
Falls City, Texas

Kathy: *"If you were dying and had only a nickel, what would you do?"*
Carol: *"Buy a pack of Lifesavers.'*

Patti Holbrook
Blanchester, Ohio

The day after a terrible rainstorm a farmer driving in his car came upon a puddle in a dirt road. He asked the farmer working in the cornfield, *"Could I get through that puddle?"*

"Sure."

So he drove through the puddle and nearly got stuck. He yelled back *"I thought you said I could go through."*

"That's funny, it only came up chest-high on my ducks."

Tom Michaels
Melrose, Wisconsin

Sam: *"My dog swallowed a flashlight last night."*
George: *"Is he all right?"*
Sam: *"Yes, when the doctor removed it, my dog was de-lighted."*

Steven Massari
Massapequa Park, New York

One day a man was going down the road and his tire came off his car and he began to sing, *"You picked a fine time to leave me, loose wheel."*

Johnny Cross
Perry, Georgia

Dinner was over and Grandpa retreated to his easy chair to relax. Pretty soon the rafters were shaking with his resounding snores. Mother came into the room just in time to see Junior twisting one of Grandpa's vest buttons.

"Don't disturb Grandpa," she said.

"I'm not, Ma," protested Junior. *"I'm just trying to get another station!"*

Susan Keith
Centerville, Ohio

"Mom, if it's true that we are dust and will return to dust, then there's somebody under the bed either coming or going."

Anita Crow
Clever, Missouri

The basketball coach told recruits their height was of no importance as long as their ears popped when they sat down.

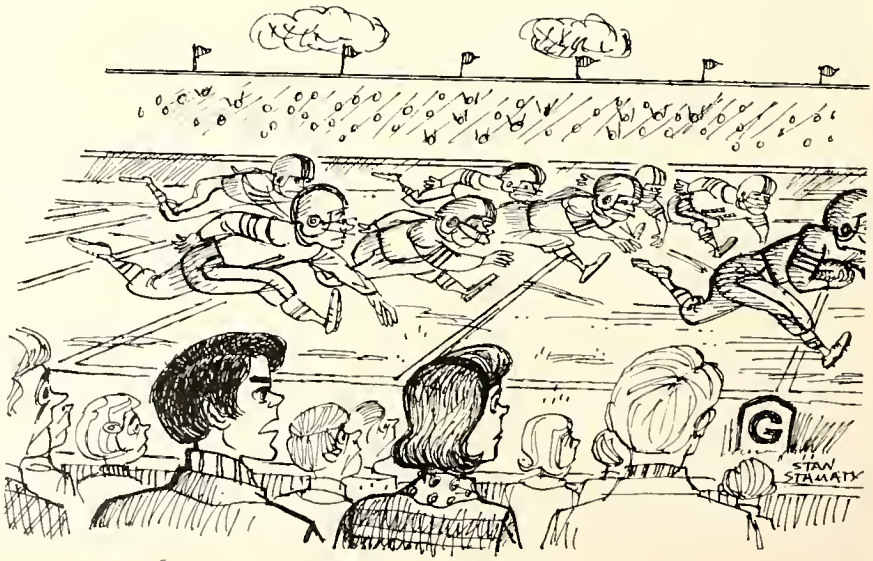
Donald Garner
Dudley, North Carolina

Football player: *"How come God made all of you girls beautiful but dumb?"*

Cheerleader: *"He made us beautiful so you can love us and He made us dumb so we can love you."*

Sue Mitschele
Morris, Pennsylvania

Charlie, the Greenhand



"Some leader! Charlie just scored for the other team!"

The National FUTURE FARMER *will pay $2.00 for each joke selected for publication on this page. Jokes must be submitted on post cards addressed to* The National FUTURE FARMER, *Alexandria, Virginia 22309. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.*

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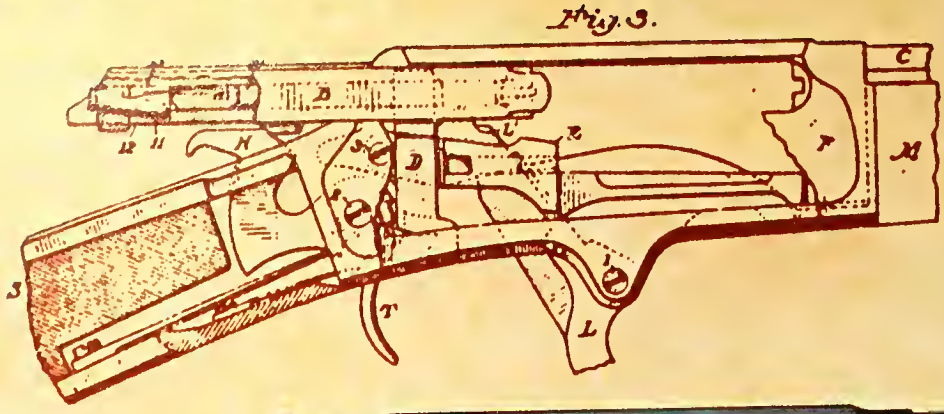
(Belts from left to right) **Style #15513** — Brown Cheyenne retan **Style #48704** — Chocolate Caribou grain with matching buckle (**#M8040M-C**) **Style #75611** — Black Cheyenne retan.

Tony Lama

TONY LAMA COMPANY, INC. / P. O. DRAWER 9518 / EL PASO, TEXAS 79985

The Marlin 336.
First it went down on paper.



Patent
No. 549,722.
MAGAZINE FIREARM.

Then it went down in history.

About 83 years ago, we sold our first Model 1893.

The guy who bought it must have been pretty pleased. Because word started getting around. Before we knew it, we had one of the hottest selling, most popular rifles ever built.

Today, after more than 8 decades and only slight modifications, the legend of America's premier deer rifle continues in the Marlin Model 336. What's made it such a great gun is all the great things that go into it.

A simple, fast action, with six critical parts machined from solid steel forgings, then heat treated for added strength and durability. An adjustable folding semi-buckhorn rear and ramp front sight with Wide-Scan™ hood. A solid top receiver with side ejection for low, centered scope mounting. A genuine American black walnut stock. And Marlin's famous Micro-Groove® rifling. And today you don't have to settle for just one version of the 336. Now there are 3 to choose from.

The 336C with pistol grip in .30/30 Win. or .35 Rem. And the 336A, like the 336C but with a longer 24" barrel, available in .30/30 Win. Or the 336T with traditional straight grip in .30/30 Win.

The Marlin 336, from about $144.95. You pay for a gun. You get a legend. See the entire Marlin line, along with popular-priced Glenfield rifles, at your gun dealer's. Also, ask for a copy of our new, free catalog. Or write, and we'll send you one.

Anyone high school age or younger can win up to $1,000 in the Marlin Hunter Safety Essay Contest. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in, or have completed, a Hunter Safety Course. Write for entry form. Marlin Firearms Co., North Haven, CT 06473.

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